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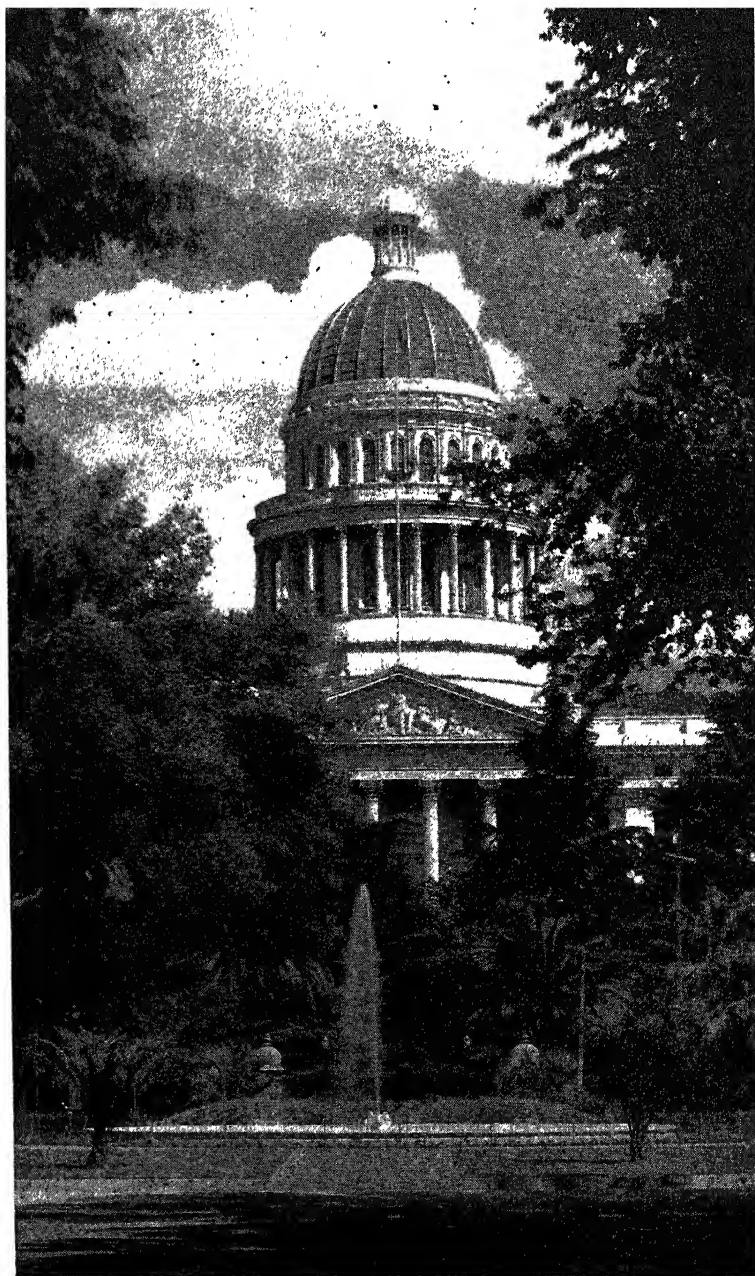
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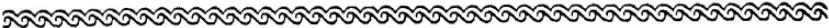
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*A*  
*Child's History of*  
*CALIFORNIA*




*California State Capitol*



A  
*Child's History of*  
CALIFORNIA

By  
ENOLA FLOWER

Illustrated with photographs  
Maps by the author



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*Dedicated*  
*to my nieces and nephews—*  
*the four Browne children and*  
*Little Claudia Lewis*

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THE AUTHOR

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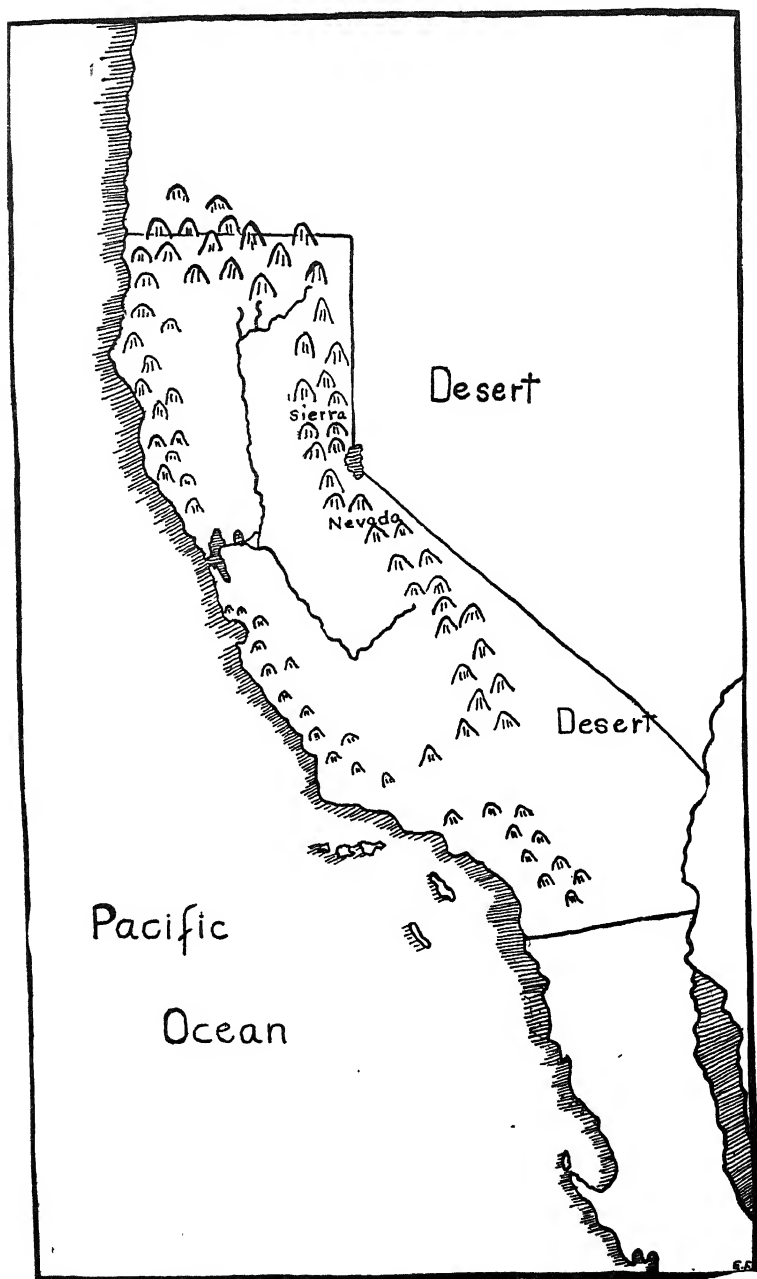
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*A*  
*Child's History of*  
*CALIFORNIA*



CALIFORNIA

## The Pleasant Land of California

This is the story of California. It is more thrilling than any make-believe story you have ever heard. It is more exciting than any moving picture you have ever seen.

Once upon a time the people in other countries did not know there was any such pleasant place as California. No traveler ever came to California. No one ever went away from California to tell what a fine land it was. Do you wonder why?

Look at your map. Do you see the mountains named Sierra Nevada? Those mountains are very high and hard to climb. A long time ago there were no smooth, paved highways. There were no railroads. There were no dirt roads or trails. In wintertime the snow on the mountains is very deep. The Indians did not dare cross the mountains in the winter. So these beautiful mountains were like a great, high fence that kept people out of California.

On the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada is a desert which stretches for miles and miles. You know that deserts are not places for traveling. No one even tried to cross this desert to see what was on the other side.

On the western side of California is the wide Pacific Ocean. It is the ocean you see when you go to the cliffs near Seal Rocks in San Francisco. At Santa Cruz and Monterey you see this same ocean rolling in along the sandy shore. You can see and hear this old ocean at all the beaches near Los Angeles and Santa

Barbara and San Diego. Today, many big ships cross the Pacific to China and Japan. Many ships sail to other faraway lands.

But not so long ago the white men did not know there was such an ocean. The Pacific Ocean was a wide wall of water that kept people away from California.

California was a hidden treasure waiting to be found. There were beautiful, high mountains and pleasant, fertile valleys. The soil was rich. There were forests of trees and great, grassy meadows. Berries and nuts grew on the bushes and trees. In the rivers there were many fish. In the valleys there were many animals. It was easy to find food.

The days were warm and sunny. Even in winter-time it was not very cold in the valleys and along the coast. Summer stayed longer in California than it did in many other lands.

The people who lived in California found it a pleasant place. They did not wish to leave it to find any other. They did not travel to other places. On the east, the mountains were a wall to keep them at home. On the west was a mighty ocean. They could not sail on it because they had no big boats. Everything they needed was right here in California. Here they lived for many years. They knew nothing about the white men in other lands. The white men in other lands knew nothing about them.

## The First People To Live in California

The first people to live in California were Indians. You knew that already, didn't you? You must not think that the California Indians were like some of the other Indians you have read about.

The California Indians usually did not wear feathers in their hair. They did not live in tents or wigwams. They were not always on the warpath trying to kill one another.

The California Indians were peaceful. There was plenty of food everywhere. There was no need to fight to get the best hunting and fishing grounds. They did not need to work very hard to catch small animals and fish. They did not do much hunting. Life was easy and lazy for these Indians.

### HOMES

The Indian homes were simple. In the north, the Indians cut heavy slabs of wood from trees for their roofs and walls. The houses were built partly below the ground. These houses were warm in cold weather. The Indians did not keep their houses very clean. When the houses became too dirty to live in, they were burned and new ones were built.

In some parts of California the Indians built neat little huts of poles. These poles were set in the earth close together in the form of a circle. The tops were drawn together and tied. Then this framework was covered with grass or mud.

Some Indians lived in caves they found in the hill-sides. Some made a rough shelter of brush. These houses became dirty and had to be burned when the Indians wanted new, clean houses.

### CLOTHING

The Indian men wore no clothes except a skin wrapped around the hips. They wore cloaks of deer-skin or rabbit fur in the rainy seasons.

The Indian women wore skirts made of tule grass. In cold weather they wore capes of rabbit skins. They wore hat-shaped baskets on their heads. They trimmed these hats with shells or bright-colored feathers. They wore necklaces of shell or stone.

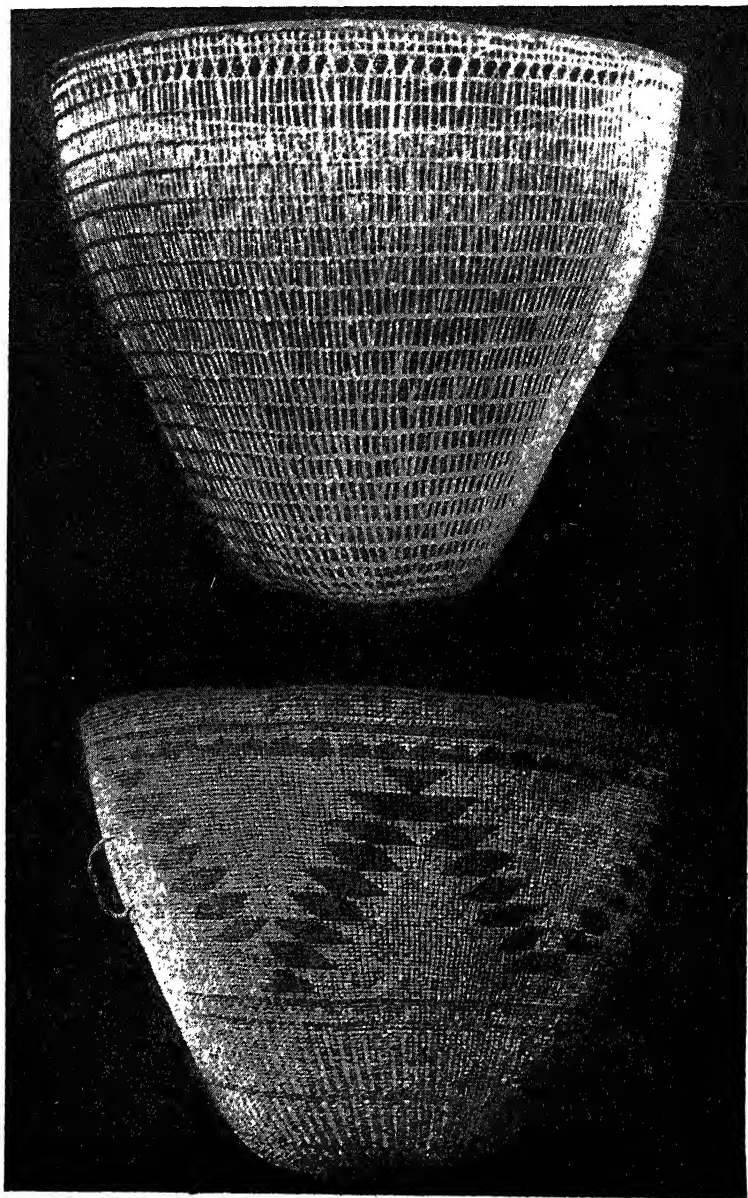
Both men and women painted their faces and bodies with colored earth.

### FOOD

The chief food of the Indians was acorns. They also ate wild onions, grass seeds, berries, and roots. All of these could be found easily in the fields or on the trees.

If they wanted meat they killed rabbits and squirrels. They could kill these small animals with their bows and arrows. Sometimes they killed larger animals like the deer and elk. To catch these larger animals they set traps or dug pits. These pits were dug on the deer trails and were lightly covered with brush. They did not hunt the grizzly bear, because they were afraid of him.

Fish was a very important food of the California Indians. The Indians along the coast ate shellfish such as clams, abalones, and mussels. In the rivers they caught salmon, trout, and eels.



INDIAN BURDEN BASKETS

*Courtesy of Department of Ethnology and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

## COOKING

Most of their cooking was done outside. They had no metal pots or kettles like ours. They used baskets. Baskets are made of grass and wood. Baskets will burn. This is the way they cooked in baskets. Tar or pitch was rubbed on the outside so the water would not run out. Then the baskets were filled with water. Rocks were heated in the fire. Hot rocks were dropped into the water. That made the water hot. The acorn meal was put into the hot water. To keep the water hot to cook the meal, hot rocks were dropped in from time to time.

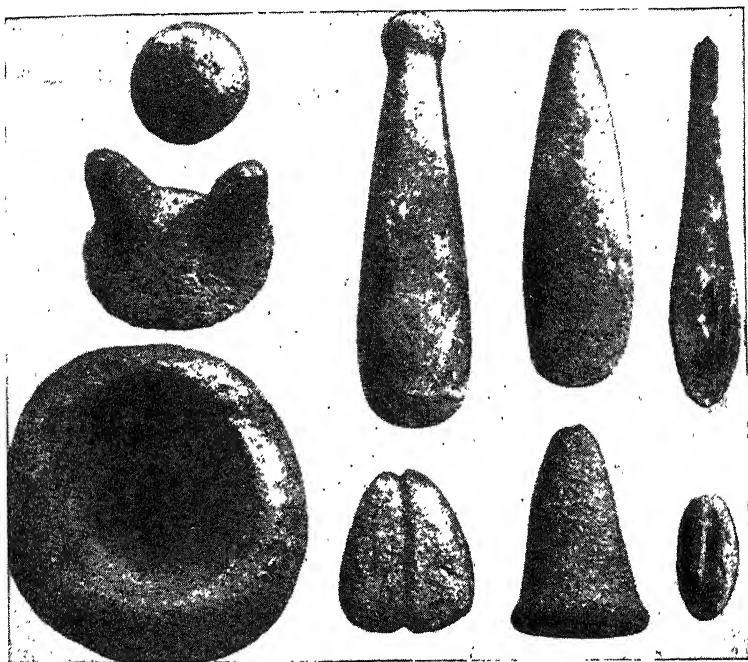
Meat was cooked by putting it on long sticks and holding it over the fire. Fish was often eaten raw.

The Indians were especially fond of acorn mush. They liked the white oak acorns best because those were the sweetest. The acorns were ground between two stones until they became acorn meal. The meal was then put into a basket, and hot water was poured through it to take out any bitter taste. Finally it was dried in the sun.

## HOUSEHOLD TOOLS

Most of the tribes made very fine baskets. This was their chief form of handwork. It was all done by the women. There were baskets of every shape and size. They needed many kinds. They used baskets for pots and kettles and dishes. They used baskets for carrying seeds, shells, grasses, and anything they could put in to carry. They used baskets for hats. Fan-shaped baskets were used for beating the seeds from the grasses. Baskets were used for storing food.

The Indians near San Diego made pots from clay. The Indians near Los Angeles got soapstone from



STONE IMPLEMENTS USED BY INDIANS

*Courtesy of Department of Ethnology and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

Catalina Island. From this they made pots, bowls, pipes, and whistles.

Stones were used for grinding seeds. One stone was large with a low place in it to hold the seed. This stone is called the mortar. A long, narrow, rounded stone was used for pounding the seed. This stone is the pestle.

Knives and spoons were made from horns and shells. Shells were useful for dishes.

#### HUNTING AND FISHING WEAPONS

Bows and arrows were used in hunting. The arrows were tipped with sharpened bits of flint. Extra arrows were carried in a case of squirrel skin.

For catching a large sea animal like the sea otter the Indians used a harpoon of wood with a sharpened bone point. There were many sea otters. The Indians used the fur for clothing and the flesh for food. To catch small fish, they used a hook and a line. The hooks were made of bone or shell. The lines were of seaweed or milkweed fiber.

### INDIAN MEDICINE

The Indians used nettles and wild tobacco for medicine. They made plasters from mud. For bald heads they used a mixture of ashes and herbs.

They believed in a medicine man. When they were sick they sent for the medicine man. He would do many strange things to cure a sick Indian. He waved his hands and made queer sounds. He danced and beat his drum.

One treatment the Indians used was the sweat house. A sweat house was a hut tightly covered with dirt. There was one low door through which to crawl into the house. Inside the house a big fire was built on the dirt floor. The Indian went inside and the door was closed. There he had to stay until he was dripping wet with sweat. Then he rushed out and jumped into the nearest stream of water. Sometimes this cured him. Sometimes it killed him.

### LIFE IN INDIAN CALIFORNIA

The years went by pleasantly. Whatever the Indians needed they could find growing or they could make from stone or bone or shell or skins. There was plenty of food. They did not need to travel about to find better places to live. They did not need to travel about to find better hunting grounds.

The Indians lived quite peacefully in their little villages. Little trading was done with other tribes. The Indians across the mountains did not come to fight them. They knew no other way to live.

People learn new and different ways by seeing others work and live differently. The California Indians kept on doing their work in the same old way all California Indians had done before them. We know they made very little change in their ways, for they left us a record. Their record is not a book. Their record was left in the Indian burial places and the shell mounds found in several parts of California.

#### INDIAN MOUNDS AND WHAT THEY TELL US

Indian shell mounds look like low, round hills. These mounds are on the same spots where Indian villages used to be. When men dig into these mounds of dirt they find old Indian tools and weapons. We have learned just what these Indians used in their work.

In the mounds there are many layers of Indian relics. Each layer was left there at a different time, for many villages have been built on the same spot.

An Indian tribe long, long ago found a good place for a village beside a stream of water. Perhaps they lived there a long time. After a while something made them leave. Soon the village was covered with dirt.

Some other Indian tribe came along. They saw this was a good place to live. They built their homes right on top of the old village. They did not know it had ever been there. Time went by, and these Indians left. Other Indians came and built there. This went on for many, many years.

If there were mounds left by the white men where their villages had been, we could dig into them and see what the people had used at different times. We would find each layer different from the others. The layer on the top left by the last village would have tools and playthings and weapons much better than the layers lower down made by the first villages.

In the Indian mounds there is little change. The Indians did not learn to make better tools than the first Indians had made. In all the years that went by, the Indians did not change very much or improve their ways of making things to use.

All the Indians used bone and stone and shells to make tools. They made their knives of sharp stones. Their axes were sharp rocks fastened to thick, strong sticks. In the Indian mounds are found many stone mortars and pestles for grinding seeds. Arrow points, shell beads, knives, spearheads, and stone hammers are also found. So we know the Indians have been in California for many, many years. They have been here so long that no one can tell the exact number of years.

#### INDIAN NAMES WE STILL USE IN CALIFORNIA

Cahuenga	Jurupa	Ojai	Tehama
Coloma	Kenocti	Poway	Topanga
Colusa	Klamath	Shasta	Tujunga
Cosumnes	Modoc	Simi	Tuolumne
Cucamonga	Mokelumne	Suisun	Ukiah
Cuyamaca	Mono	Tahoe	Yolo
Hueneme	Mugu	Tamalpais	Yosemite
Inyo	Napa	Tehachapi	Yuba

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The First Ships To Sail on the Pacific

always gold. It was silver, pearls, silk, and spices.

The treasure ships were large sailing ships called galleons. When these galleons left Mexico to sail across the wide, blue Pacific, they had to sail many months before they reached home again. The sailors needed fresh food. They needed fresh water. On every voyage, many sailors became sick and died of a dreadful disease called scurvy. Scurvy is caused by lack of fresh food. Sometimes the sailors had only salted meat and hardtack to eat.

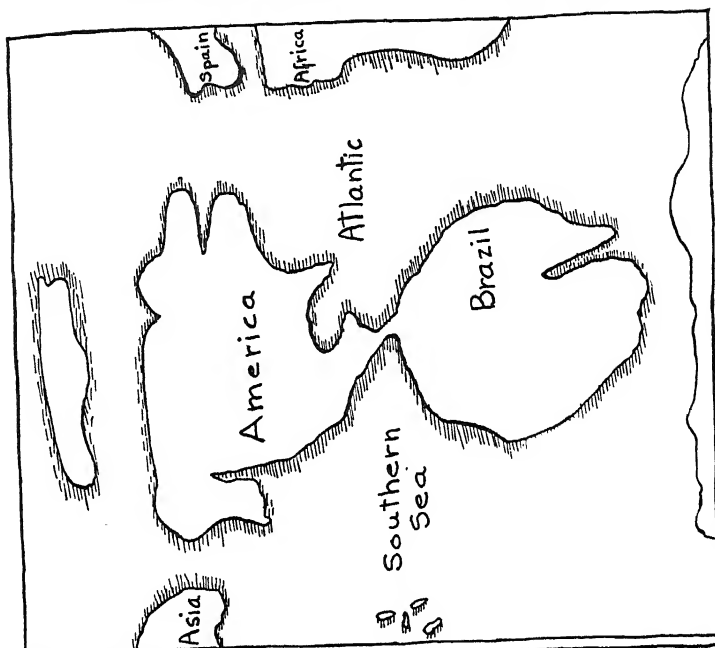
meat and hardtack to eat.

Sometimes these big ships were damaged by the storms. Often the sails were torn and the wooden parts of the ships were broken. They needed a place to stop to repair the ships. They needed a place where they could get fresh water and fresh food.

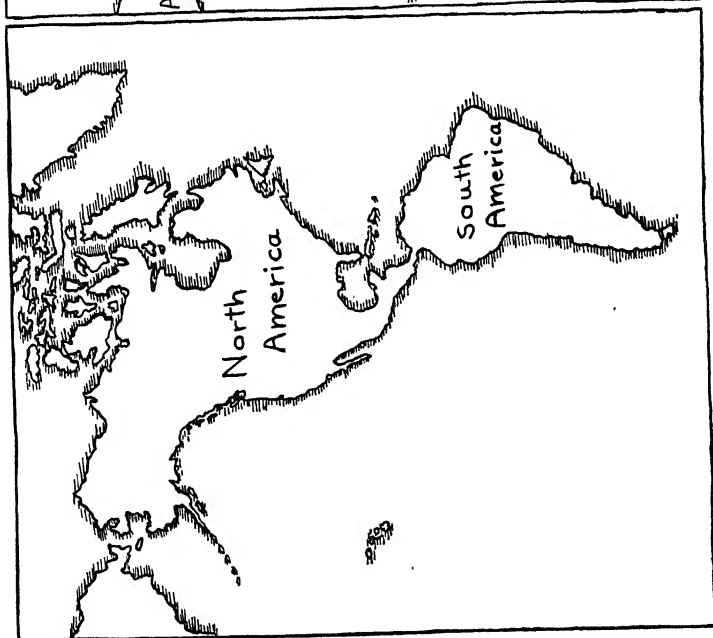
The Spanish became very anxious to find a good harbor on the Pacific Coast for their treasure ships. Also, they wanted to find a short way to sail around North America. The sailors were tired of the long, long voyage the treasure ships had to make to get back to Spain. They had to sail all the way around South America. This took many, many months. They thought that there must be a shorter way by which they could sail from the "Southern Sea" (Pacific Ocean) to the Atlantic Ocean and on home to Spain.

When Columbus discovered America, he thought it was made up of a few small islands. Other explorers discovered there was more land. But no one had any idea how big America really is.

Here is a map-picture showing where the ships had to sail. Beside it is another map-picture of the way the explorers wanted it to be. You can see how much time a northern passage would have saved them.



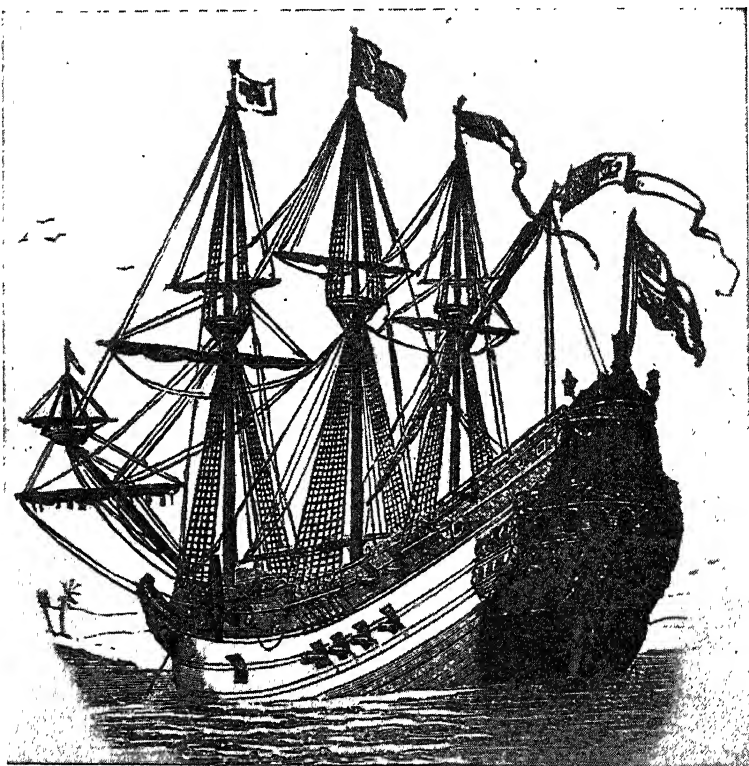
NEW WORLD AS IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE



NEW WORLD AS IT REALLY IS

# The Man Who Discovered California

The man who discovered California was looking for this short way around America. He was a Portuguese sailor named Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo. He was a brave and daring sailor who was not afraid of any



SHIP OF CABRILLO'S TIME  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

hardship or danger. He was always careful, though, and planned not to do anything foolish on his trips.

The ruler of Mexico hired Cabrillo in 1542 to sail north along the Pacific Coast. He was to see if he could find the short way sailors wanted so much to find. Sailors were so sure there was a short way that they had a name for it. They called it the Strait of Aníán. Cabrillo was to try to find the Strait of Aníán.

He was told to look for some good harbors along the coast also. If he found some good harbors, they would be stopping places for the treasure ships on the long voyages across the Pacific.

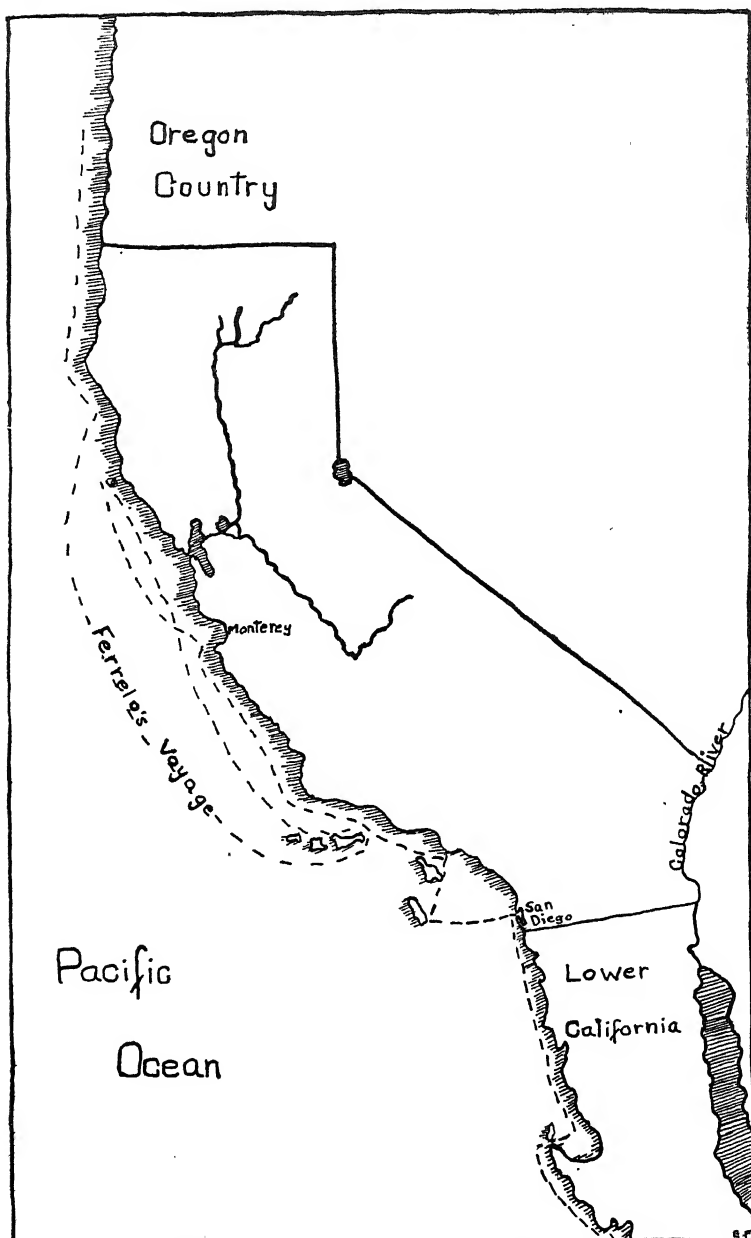
Cabrillo was given two small boats. They could not sail very fast, and one had no deck. They were named the *San Salvador* and the *Victoria*. Very, very slowly these two small boats made their way northward along the coast.

Look at your map and you will see a long, narrow strip of land with water on three sides just below our California. The Spanish explorers had discovered that land and named it California. It is now called Baja California, or Lower California. *Baja* means below or lower in Spanish.

Cabrillo sailed along the coast of Baja California and stopped at many different bays. He named these bays and described them in a record book.

At the end of the first month he was farther along this coast than any sailor had been. He kept stopping for fresh water and wood. He talked with the Indians by making signs.

When they had been sailing three months, they came to a little group of islands off the coast. As they sailed past these islands, the sailors saw smoke from the fires of Indian villages on the mainland. Sailing



VOYAGES OF CABRILLO AND FERRELO

toward the land, they found a very good harbor. A long, narrow strip of land separated the harbor from the ocean. Ships could stay in this harbor and be safe from any storm. Cabrillo named the harbor San Miguel. We now call it San Diego, the name given it by a later explorer.

Cabrillo and a few of his men went on shore. They were the first white men to land on the shores of California. There were some Indians on the shore but they all ran away but three. To these three, Cabrillo gave presents. He wanted to be friends with them.

That night the Spanish sailors went on shore again to fish in the bay with their nets. Some Indians crept up and shot at them with their bows and arrows. Some of the Spanish were wounded. Cabrillo would not let his men shoot at the Indians. He treated the Indians kindly. Later they became friends.

Next day some Indians came out to the ships in their small canoes. They talked to the Spaniards by making signs. They made signs to tell that far away inland there were men who looked like the men on the ship. The men had beards and carried guns. They made signs to show that the men rode on horseback. They also made signs to tell that these other Spanish men were killing many Indians. That was why the Indians were afraid of strangers. What kind of signs would you make to tell this story?

Cabrillo was always kind to them. He gave them many presents. He would not let his men hurt them. Everywhere he went, the Indians brought him food for his men.

They sailed north from the pleasant, safe harbor they had found. They kept always close to the coast. They were sailing now where no ships had ever sailed.

One day, they sailed into a bay where there was much smoke. They called this the Bay of Smokes. This is the bay we call the Bay of Santa Monica.

Farther north, they came to a village where the Indians had built themselves fine, large canoes. These canoes would hold many men. Cabrillo named this the Town of the Canoes. At another village, the Spanish stopped to take on wood and water. The Indians brought them many sardines to eat. The sailors called this the Town of the Sardines.

They stopped for a week on one of the islands along the coast. Here Cabrillo broke his arm. There was no doctor to set it properly and it did not heal. Cabrillo kept on sailing northward just the same.

One day they came in sight of the large bay we call Monterey Bay. They saw the rocky point and the beautiful curves of the beach. Great trees grew close to the water's edge. This bay looked like another good harbor. A storm came up and tossed the little ships about. In the heavy, high waves they could not bring the little ships to the land. They had to sail on.

In the storm, the two ships were separated. The smallest one, the *Victoria*, was lost for two days. The weather grew colder and colder. The sea became more rough and wild. The winter storms were beginning. Yet Cabrillo kept on sailing northward. The two small ships bravely sailed on in the storms. They passed San Francisco Bay and did not see it. That was the finest harbor of all. These brave sailors never knew they had sailed by this great bay. Once, the ships tried to stop on the shores of a small bay but the waves were too high. They called this the Bay of the Pines. We call it Drake's Bay now.

It was so cold and stormy that they finally had to turn south. They sailed back to spend the winter on a

small island. This island was near the Town of the Canoes. Here Cabrillo's arm became worse. In January of 1543, Cabrillo died. His men buried him on the island. They named the island the Isle of Rodríguez. The island is now called San Miguel.

When Cabrillo was dying, he made his chief pilot promise that he would take the ships north again. The chief pilot was Ferrelo. He, too, was a brave, daring sailor. He kept his promise to Cabrillo. Again the little ships sailed north. This time they went much farther than the first time. They went as far north as the coast of Oregon.

Again they met many storms. The sailors suffered much from the cold. They were wet for weeks at a time. They had to sleep in their wet clothing. They had nothing to eat but water-soaked ship biscuit. Many of the sailors were sick. All of them were badly frightened.

Sometimes the high waves broke over the little ships. One storm was so wild and fierce that they were certain the ships would sink. They threw many things overboard to lighten the ships. At last, the wind changed and blew them southward. For a month the two ships were again separated. Again they met and struggled on toward home. After months, they reached Mexico again.

In Mexico, everyone had thought the ships were lost and the men dead. There was great rejoicing. Everyone talked about the adventures these men had had. They were interested in their discoveries but it was sixty years before another explorer was sent to look for a new passage to make the route shorter. Yet they did not forget about the two fine bays Cabrillo had discovered. They did not know there was a bigger and finer one that Cabrillo and Ferrelo had not found.

## An English Sailor Comes to California

The second explorer to come to California was an Englishman. His name was Francis Drake. He came in 1579.

Do you wonder what an English sailor was doing on the Pacific Ocean? That is a very interesting story. Let's hear some of it right now.

England and Spain were enemy countries then. The English did not think it was fair for the Spanish to take all the land and all the treasure in America. They wanted some for themselves. English ships began to sail out across the Atlantic toward America. When they met a Spanish treasure ship coming home to Spain, there was a fight. If the English won, they took the treasure.

Francis Drake was a brave and daring sailor. He liked to go sailing to find Spanish treasure ships. He grew bolder and bolder about it. Finally, he decided to come all the way to America.

He started with five little ships. He met and captured many Spanish treasure galleons. He took the treasure and stored it on his own ships. He had such good fortune capturing treasure ships that he kept sailing farther and farther west.

He was getting so much treasure he did not want to stop. He knew the Spanish would be waiting to capture him if he sailed back the same way he came. He thought he had better find another way home. He

kept on sailing until he had sailed around South America.

At the tip end of South America, the sailing is very dangerous. There are many storms. The winds are strong and powerful. The rocks are close to the water's surface. One of the ships sank. Two of them turned back. The captains were afraid to go any farther. Another was so damaged that it was taken apart and burned for firewood. Drake had only one ship left. This ship was named the *Golden Hind*.

#### SAILING ON THE PACIFIC

When he had sailed around South America, he was on the Pacific Ocean. None but Spanish ships had ever sailed on this ocean. He sailed northward now. He captured more Spanish ships. The captains of these ships were very much surprised to meet an English ship on the Pacific. They could scarcely believe their eyes when they saw the English flag flying on the *Golden Hind*. They had heard of Francis Drake and his daring deeds. They were afraid of him. They were not happy to meet him here on the ocean where they had always felt so safe.

Drake sailed on, capturing ships here in the Pacific Ocean where only Spanish ships had sailed before. He grew so bold that he even went on shore to see what he could find. Once, he found a man lying asleep on the shore. Beside the man were many large bars of silver. He had brought this silver down from the silver mines in the mountains. He was waiting for a Spanish ship to come by to get the silver. But when he awoke, his silver was all gone. He did not know that the bold Francis Drake had played a trick on him while he slept.

Drake had taken so much treasure from the Spanish that he did not dare to go back. On land and on sea the Spanish would be waiting for him. They would not let him go back to England with all the treasure.

He was very much alone with one ship way out on the wide Pacific. He was thousands and thousands of miles from England. The only way he could get home again was to keep on sailing and sail right around the world. Only one man had ever sailed all the way around the world. But Francis Drake knew he would have to do that or be captured. Of course, if he could find a short way to sail around the land of North America, that would be best of all the ways to go home.

He kept sailing on north. He sailed past Mexico. Mexico was Spanish land. He kept his one little ship far out at sea away from the sight of land. He did not want anyone to see him. He did not even want to meet any treasure ships now.

#### DRAKE IN CALIFORNIA

He had to stop somewhere. His ship was battered by many storms. The sails were torn. His men were tired. Many of them were sick. They needed fresh food. They must have fresh water. The water barrels were empty. He knew there was a long, long voyage ahead of them. England was half a world away. They must stop before they sailed any farther. He had to find a harbor where they could stay awhile.

At last, he knew they were far north of Mexico. He sailed closer to the shore. He sailed into a little bay where there were many rocks. This bay is about thirty miles north of San Francisco Bay. It is the bay Cabrillo had called the Bay of the Pines. Like Ca-

brillo and Ferrelo, Drake had sailed past San Francisco Bay without seeing it.

### DRAKE'S BAY

The bay is named Drake's Bay. The Indians there were very friendly. They brought the English sailors many presents of fish and acorns. They liked Drake and asked him by signs to be their king. Drake and the sailors who were not sick went hunting with the Indians. They killed many animals. They now had plenty of fresh meat.

They came to Drake's Bay in June. By the last of July, the *Golden Hind* was repaired and cleaned. She was ready for the long voyage home. The sick sailors were well again. They were glad to start toward home once more. The water barrels were filled with fresh, clear water. Piles of wood lay on the decks. Fresh food was taken aboard.

Before they left, Drake claimed this land for England. He set up a pole and nailed onto it a brass plate. This plate had the date marked on it. On it was marked the name of the Queen of England and also Drake's name. It was a custom of explorers to claim the lands they discovered. They sometimes left some kind of marker to show this.

With the heavy load of treasure aboard, the *Golden Hind* sailed away from the shores of California. The Indians were sad to see the Englishmen leave.

This time the ship headed west. Across the wide Pacific they sailed on and on and on. They sailed and sailed until they had sailed around the world and were once more in England.

What excitement there was in England! No ship had ever brought home so much treasure. No sailors had had such thrilling adventures. Drake and his

men had many exciting tales to tell their families and friends. They told about battles and storms and treasure. No one was very much interested in hearing about California.

#### DRAKE'S BRASS PLATE

Many years later Drake's plate was found. One day in 1936, a young man from Oakland went on a picnic with some friends. They went across San Francisco Bay to the Marin County side. Not far from the shore of the bay, he found a flat piece of blackened metal. He took it home to use in repairing his automobile. When he started to use it, he found some words were scratched on it. When he cleaned it, he saw more words. He showed it to a man who knew a great deal about California history. This man thought it must be Drake's plate. The plate was tested to find out whether the brass was the kind used in Drake's time. The tests proved it was a kind of brass Drake could have used. The words on it are the very same words the old history records said were scratched on the plate Drake left at Drake's Bay. This plate now belongs to the University of California. Perhaps you will see it some day.

## Another Spanish Explorer

Sixty years passed by after Cabrillo's voyage to California. He had discovered the fine harbor of San Diego, but the Spanish had not used it. They seemed to have forgotten all about California.

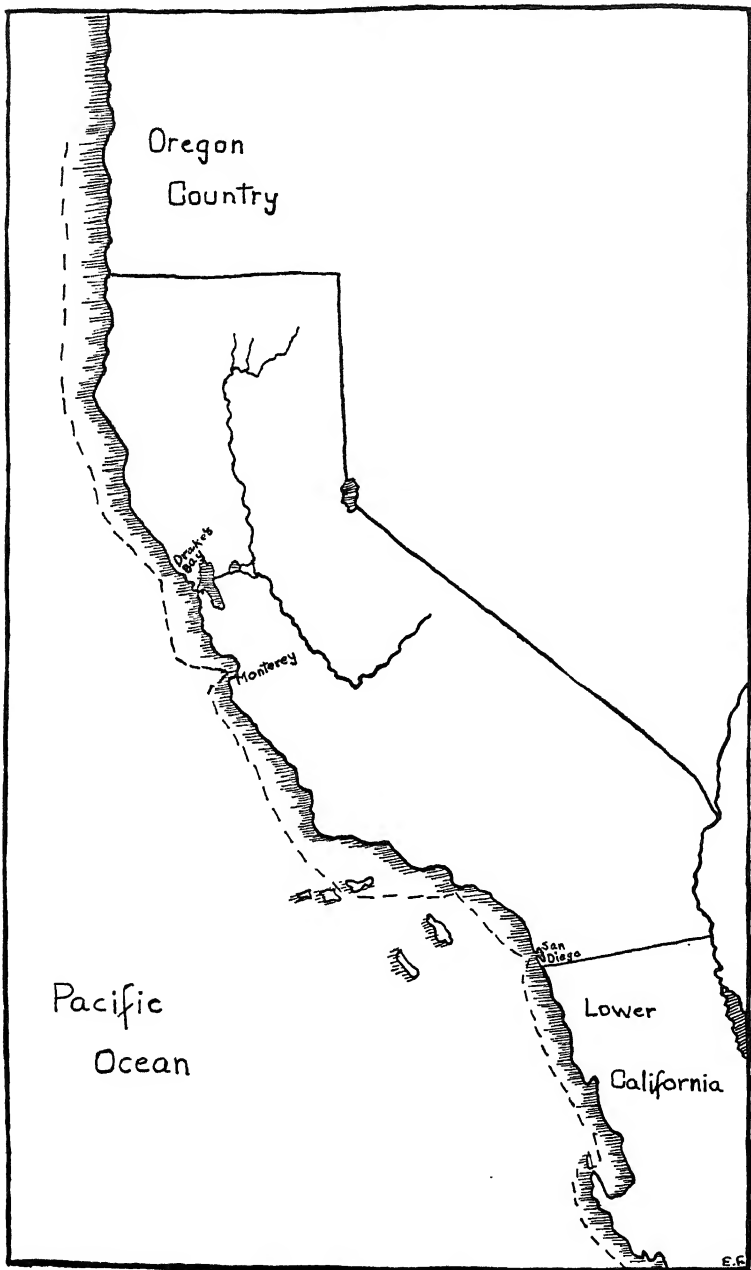
In 1602, they began to think about it again. The King of Spain sent a message to the ruler of Mexico. The ruler of Mexico was called the Viceroy. That means the man who takes the king's place in some faraway land. The King told this viceroy to send some ships to California to look again for good harbors.

The Viceroy chose a man named Sebastián Vizcaíno. Vizcaíno was not a sailor. He was a merchant. He had sailed across the Pacific on Spanish ships many times. He knew how important it was to find harbors on the coast of California for these ships.

He was given three small ships for his voyage. The ships were driven back by storms many times as they sailed northward. It took them six months to reach the harbor Cabrillo had discovered. On the way, they had stopped many times to fish. They had stopped for fresh water, also.

### VIZCAINO IN CALIFORNIA

One day in November, the three ships reached the harbor Cabrillo had discovered sixty years before.



VOYAGE OF VIZCAINO IN 1602

Cabrillo had called it San Miguel. Vizcaíno named it San Diego. He thought it was a fine harbor.

They sailed away to the north, stopping at the same harbors Cabrillo had seen. To every place, Vizcaíno gave another name. We now use the names Vizcaíno thought of for these bays and harbors.

Vizcaíno was the first man to sail into Monterey Bay. Do you remember that Cabrillo had seen it? Then you remember that he could not sail into the bay because it was too rough and stormy.

Vizcaíno thought this was the finest harbor he had seen. There were many trees—pines and oaks—along the shore. There was one very large oak that was afterward called the Oak of Vizcaíno. He stood beneath the branches of this tree when he landed on the shore. Wild elk and ducks and geese could be found near by. The climate was mild and pleasant. The bay was wide. The water was deep. Vizcaíno thought this would be a fine harbor, sheltered from the southeast winds. He was so pleased with it that he said this bay was more wonderful than it really was.

Some of his men were sick. He sent them back to Mexico on one of the ships. On this ship he sent all the maps he had made of the coast of California.

The two ships sailed on toward the north. It was winter. The storms were wild and rough. The waves were high. The sailors shivered with the bitter cold. The ships tossed about so much that the men fell from their beds. Only a few men were strong enough to climb up into the rigging. The ropes on the masts of ships are called rigging. On sailing ships there are many ropes.

Soon there were so many sick men that the ships were like hospitals. Vizcaíno decided to start toward

home. He passed San Francisco Bay, as he had when sailing northward, without seeing it. Perhaps the bay was hidden by clouds of fog. Perhaps his ships were too far out to see the narrow entrance.

The two ships became separated. Each sailed on alone. On the *San Salvador*, Vizcaíno's ship, every sailor was sick. Vizcaíno wanted to wait at the island of Catalina for the other ship. His sailors were not strong enough to pull up the anchor. He did not dare let it down. He had to keep on sailing.

One day in March, his ship reached a harbor in Mexico. There was no food left. Here they cast anchor. A few of the men were well enough to go ashore. Vizcaíno went with them. They traveled inland many miles looking for a village where they could get food. They found one and were given food to take back to the ship. This food was chicken, beef, bread, fresh fruit, and vegetables. The fruit was as good as medicine to the sick men.

In about three weeks the sailors were well again. They sailed on to the harbor of Acapulco. Here they heard that the ship sent home from Monterey with the first of the sick men had reached this harbor safely. The ship had arrived, but most of the men were dead.

Vizcaíno traveled overland to Mexico City. There he reported the story of his voyage to the Viceroy. He told what he had discovered in California. He talked most about the wonderful harbor of Monterey. He begged to be sent back again to California.

In Mexico City, Vizcaíno met one of the sailors from his other ship that had been separated from him. This sailor told him that all but six of the men had died. These six men had brought the ship home to Mexico.

Later, Vizcaíno went to Spain to see the King. He asked the King to give him men and ships to go again to California. But the King was too busy fighting a war. He had no money to spare for a voyage to California.

Again California was left alone by the white men. The Indians forgot about the white strangers who had come in winged ships. And the years went on and on.

## Father Serra Walks to California

One hundred and sixty-seven years went by. The King of Spain sent word to the Viceroy of Mexico to send a party of people to California. These people were to stay in California. They were to build missions where they could teach the Indians. They were to build forts, also.

Later, he would send more people to build homes and make towns. The King was beginning to think about California. He was afraid some other country would try to take California away from Spain. Spain was not such a powerful country as she had once been. More and more people from other countries had come and settled in America.

The Viceroy of Mexico was very glad to send settlers to California. He planned to send four different parties. Two were to go by sea and two by land.

### THE TWO SEA PARTIES

Two ships were made ready. These ships were the *San Antonio* and the *San Carlos*. They were to carry on board all the things the first settlers would need. The chief need would be food. They would need enough food to last until they could plant and raise food for themselves. Seeds of grain and vegetables were taken. Cuttings of many kinds of fruit trees and of grapevines were loaded on the ships. There would be no place to buy tools in California. Spades,

shovels, hammers, axes, and saws were taken. Many blankets, colored beads, and pieces of bright, shining metal were taken to trade with the Indians. Sixty-two soldiers, sailors, workmen, and missionaries sailed on the two ships.

The *San Carlos* sailed in January, 1769. In February, the *San Antonio* sailed with more supplies, workmen, and missionaries.

The *San Antonio* arrived at San Diego early in April. The sailors expected to see the other ship in the bay. But the *San Carlos* had not arrived. Late in April, she sailed into the bay, but no one came ashore. That was very strange. The captain of the *San Antonio* rowed out in a canoe to see what was the matter. When he climbed aboard, he found that everyone was sick. They were too sick to lower the small boat to row ashore. The crew of the *San Antonio* had to bring all the sick sailors to the shore in canoes. There they built brush huts for them.

#### THE FIRST LAND PARTY

The first land party left Baja California late in March to walk to Alta California. Alta means high in Spanish. Alta California or Upper California was their name for what is now our California. There were a few small settlements in Baja California. Some missions had been built there. All these missions gave many supplies to help start the missions in Alta California. Here is a list of what they gave:

Cattle	Harness	Flour	Wheat
Horses	Leather	Dried Figs	Tallow
Mules	Leather Bags	Raisins	Wine

In the first land party, there were twenty-five soldiers and forty-two Indians. These Indians had

lived at the missions in Baja California. There they had learned to work as the Spaniards did. They would be a great help in building houses and planting the crops.

There was no fine, paved highway for these men to follow. There was no good dirt road. There was not even a trail. No one had ever traveled this way before them. As they traveled, they had to cut away bushes and move rocks so they could go on. It was only 150 miles to San Diego. Because they had to find their way in a strange country, they traveled 400 miles to get there.

On the way, for days at a time, they could not find water. The trip took them so long that their food supply was nearly gone. For the last eleven days, all the men had to eat was *one* meal cake a day. At night, they had to sleep on the hard, rocky ground. Wild animals roared in the darkness. Many of the men grew sick and had to be carried by the stronger ones.

This party reached San Diego in May. The Spanish soldiers and mission father who had come on the two ships came to meet them. Each party had a sad tale to tell about its sufferings. But they had all reached California.

## THE SECOND LAND PARTY

The second land party started from Mexico in May. This party was led by the commander of all the parties. He was Don Gaspar de Portolá. He had been a governor in Baja California. He was to be the first governor of Alta California. Portolá was told to go as far north as Monterey. There he was to build a presidio. Presidio is the Spanish name for fort. A mission was to be built at Monterey, also.

Another important man in this party was Father



FATHER SERRA

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

Junípero Serra. Father Serra was to have charge of building the missions in California. At these missions the Indians were to be taught many things.

They would be taught how to build better houses, how to make clothes, how to raise fruit and grain. They would be taught many other kinds of work. The mission fathers would teach them about God and how to live good, Christian lives.

Father Serra was very, very happy to be going to California. When he was a little boy in faraway Spain, he had wanted to come to Mexico and teach the Indians. He did go to Mexico and lived there many years. He had built missions and taught Indians. But now he wanted to go to California and teach the Indians.

Father Serra was no longer young. He had a sore leg which hurt him all the time. He had been bitten on the leg by an insect years before this. His leg had never healed. But he wanted to go to California. And he wanted to walk! He did walk all the way. Sometimes, his leg hurt so much that he could not walk as fast as the others. Portolá wanted him to ride on a mule. But Father Serra said, "No."

One night his leg hurt more than usual. He asked one of the men who looked after the mules to help him. This man put some warm tallow mixed with herbs on the leg. That was what he did for the mules. But he thought that was not good enough medicine for Father Serra. Father Serra insisted. Next day, the sore leg was better.

Along the way they met many Indians who were friendly. Some of them were too friendly. They helped themselves to things that belonged to the Spaniards. One Indian took Father Serra's spectacles. The Indians had never seen spectacles before. They thought they were wonderful things. The Spaniards had a hard time getting them back again.

The Indians brought them food. The soldiers in the

party killed deer and antelope. But even then, they did not always have enough to eat.

It was a long, hot, dangerous trip. There was little water and little shade. There was no trail. The animals had to travel slowly. The men were very tired. Every three or four days they had to stop to give the men and animals a rest. Most of the Indians ran away before the party reached San Diego. They were traveling in a hot time of the year. Day by day, they moved slowly on over the hot, brown sand and the hot, red rocks.

On the first of July this party arrived in San Diego. Now, all the parties were together. They had reached California. Many had died. Many were still sick. They were all tired and hungry. But they had reached the land where they were to live. Here they would build mission and presidio. They would hold California for Spain.

## Finding Monterey Once More

Father Serra started the first mission in San Diego in July, 1769. There was no church at first. There was no building of any kind but the little brush huts the sailors had built. The first church services were held outside. Two long poles were stuck into the ground. Across the tops of these poles another pole was laid. A bell was hung from this framework. This bell had come across the ocean from Spain. It had been brought from Mexico for the California missions.

Father Serra rang this bell to call the Indians. The Indians were afraid of the strange sound and the strange men. They stayed behind the bushes and watched to see what the white strangers were going to do. Every day, Father Serra rang the bell. Every day, the Indians watched from the bushes. They kept coming nearer and nearer. They knew that these strangers were not going to hurt them.

The Spanish workmen built more brush huts to live in. Later, they built a big brush hut for a church.

### THE TRIP TO MONTEREY

The men rested for about a month after their long trip over the desert. Then, it was time to start looking for Monterey. Portolá and some of the men would make this trip. Father Serra and the others would stay in San Diego and start to build the mission.

They would try to make friends with the Indians.

Portolá took with him soldiers, servants, Mexicans, Indians, a map maker, and two mission fathers. Father Crespí and Father Gomez went with this party. Father Crespí wrote a record of their trip. So we know what they did each day.

The men rode on horses. The Indians carried picks and axes for clearing the way. There was no trail to follow. Many times, the Indians had to cut down bushes before the horses could go on. The party could travel only a few miles a day. Often they had to camp several days to look for water. They killed wild animals for food.

They rode always toward the north. The map maker drew maps of the land as they passed along. They gave names to the rivers and the valleys. Names Portolá gave them are used by us now.

One valley he named San Juan Capistrano. Later, a beautiful mission was built there. In one valley, they saw many bears. They named it Los Osos, which means "the bears."

The Pajaro River was named that because the soldiers saw a big, stuffed bird belonging to the Indians at that place. At another place, they saw a large tree. They named it Palo Alto.

It would take us only a day or two in an automobile to drive from San Diego to Monterey. It took Portolá and his men seventy-eight days. Every mile was hard traveling.

At last, they reached Monterey. The bay did not look very wonderful to them. The grass on the hills was dry and brown. The trees were dusty. It did not look as beautiful as Vizcaíno had said it was so many years ago. These men stood on the shores of Monterey Bay but did not know that they had found it. They

said, "This bay should be Monterey Bay. But it can't be. We must go on still farther."

They were all disappointed. They were very tired from the long, hard trip from San Diego. Many of them were too sick to walk. It was now October and chilly. It was raining most of the time.

It was decided to go on farther north. For many days, they walked on through the brush. One day, they were traveling near the coast where they could see the ocean. They saw ahead of them some small bays and islands. From the maps they had brought with them, they could tell that one bay they saw must be Drake's Bay. That meant that Monterey Bay was somewhere behind them. They had come too far north.

Portolá had his men make a camp in the hills. He sent out men to explore. This exploring party was told to see what it could find out about the country. It was to get back to camp in three days. Some of the soldiers asked if they could go hunting. They saw many deer in the hills. This would be a good time to get some fresh meat.

The men who had gone out hunting came back first. They said they had seen a great arm of the ocean stretching as far inland as they could see. The exploring scouts came back. They too had seen this great arm of the ocean. It was a bay. It was the largest bay they had seen in California.

The next day, the whole party rode and walked on farther. They looked down from a hilltop upon the shining water. They were looking at San Francisco Bay, the finest bay in all California. They were the first white men to see it.

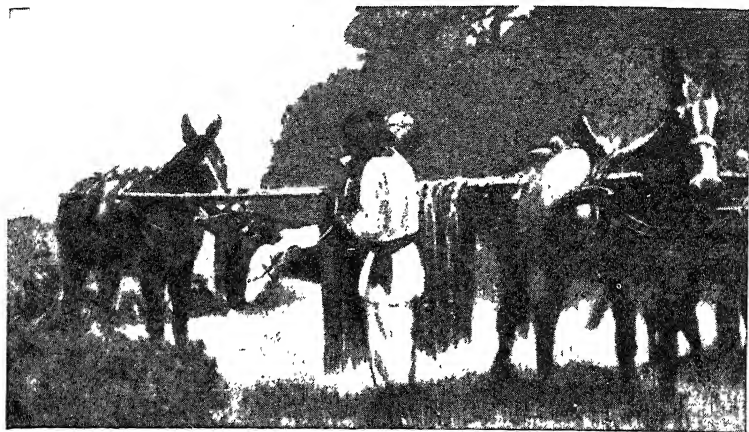
But they were not happy. They were tired and hungry. They knew that, somehow, they had missed



PORTOLA DISCOVERS A NEW BAY  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

Monterey. Now, they must go back and look for it. This wonderful, big bay they had discovered did not mean much to them.

The party turned toward the south. They had to travel very slowly. The men were too tired and sick to travel much each day. Again they reached Monterey Bay. Again they looked at the bay and thought, "What has happened to the fine bay Vizcaíno discovered? Perhaps it has been filled up with sand by this time."



PORTOLA'S MEN TOO ILL TO WALK

*Courtesy of Bancroft Library and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

Soon their food was nearly gone. They had to kill their pack mules one by one for food. They did not like the taste of mule meat but they had to eat it. The return trip took many weeks. When they did reach San Diego again they had been gone six months.

### IN SAN DIEGO

In San Diego many of the men had died. The Indians had tried to kill the others. Those who were left were glad to see Portolá and his men again. But now there was not enough food for all of them.

The ship, *San Antonio*, had been sent back to Mexico to get more supplies. It was past time for the ship to be sailing back into San Diego harbor. It was so long since the ship left that some of the men thought she must be lost.

Portolá thought they should all start back to Mexico. He said they must go. They had not been

able to find Monterey. More than half of the men were dead. Their food was almost gone.

But Father Serra wanted to stay. He was not willing to leave California. He begged Portolá to wait three more days. He hoped the ship would come before the three days were over.

Every day, their anxious eyes looked out toward the ocean. Many times they stood on the beach. The strongest men climbed to the top of the hills.

They hoped to see sails coming over the blue waters. Day by day went by. The *San Antonio* did not come. But Father Serra would not give up hope. He said, "The ship must come. We can not leave California."

The ship *did* come. On the very last day, the watching men saw a speck far out at sea. It was a sail. They waited until it grew larger. Then they hurried to the settlement. They cried, "The *San Antonio* is coming."

It was the *San Antonio*. But it was several days before she reached the bay. The ship brought food and medicine and supplies. There was a letter from the Viceroy of Mexico. This letter told Portolá to do everything possible to find the harbor of Monterey.

Now everyone was happy. There was food enough for all. Soon winter would be over. They were going to stay in California. In the springtime, Portolá would try again to find Monterey.

#### TO MONTEREY AGAIN

In May, Portolá sent two parties to look for Monterey. One went by sea on the *San Antonio*. Father Serra went on the ship. Portolá led the other party of men by land. The land party reached Monte-

rey safely in good time. They knew which way to travel this time.

They walked along the shore of the bay. The day was clear and warm. The water was still and blue. They saw the point of land to the north. They saw the point of land to the south. This time, the bay did look as Vizcaíno had described it. They knew it was the right place.

About eight days later, the *San Antonio* sailed into the bay. Father Serra and the other men came ashore. On a fine day in June, Father Serra held the first church service on the shore. The sailors, soldiers, and mission fathers stood under a great spreading oak tree. It was the same oak tree where Vizcaíno and his men had stood for their church service. The bells, brought on the *San Antonio*, were hung on the rough framework of poles.

After the service, Portolá took possession of the land for the King of Spain. A wooden cross was set up. The flag of Spain was raised on a pole cut from a tree.

A message was sent by ship to Mexico that a settlement had been started at Monterey. Here the Spanish would build a mission and a presidio. The Viceroy of Mexico was happy to get the message. He wanted everyone to know what had happened to California. So he ordered all the church bells in Mexico to be rung.

## The California Missions

There were two settlements in California now. One was at San Diego. The other was at Monterey. The mission fathers were happy. Father Serra was the happiest of all. To build missions in California and teach the Indians were what he had dreamed of doing for many years.

The mission fathers made friends with the Indians. They taught them to help in building the missions. The soldiers and Indians worked many weeks cutting down trees. The logs made the framework for the walls and roof. The Indians were taught to make bricks of adobe. Adobe is a kind of clay. It is found in the soil of some parts of California. The adobe was mixed with water and shaped into big bricks that were dried in the sun. When the bricks were dry, they were used to build the walls. The walls were made very thick. This kept the buildings cool in the summer. Over the adobe walls a coat of plaster was spread. Small adobe bricks were often baked to make them hard and waterproof. These were called tiles. They were used on steps and porch floors. Curved tiles were sometimes used on the roof.

A wall was built around the buildings. There were many buildings at a mission. One building was the church. Each church had a belfry. In the belfry were bells that had come across the sea from Spain. The Indians liked to hear the sound of the mission bells ringing.

Another building was the home for the two mission fathers who lived at each mission. There was a large storehouse. There was a large kitchen. All the food for all the people who lived at the mission was cooked in this kitchen. The fathers had to teach the Indian women how to cook in the white man's way. There were workrooms. There was the building for the soldiers, because some soldiers had to live at the mission. The Indians had little brush huts to live in outside the mission wall.

The fathers taught the Indians how to plow the ground. They did not have steel plows. They did not have tractors to turn up the brown soil. They had to plow with the crooked limbs of trees. They tied limbs to the oxen. They drove the oxen back and forth over the fields. This turned up the soil so that the seeds could be planted.

They planted the seeds of wheat and corn. They planted the cuttings of fruit trees. The trees they planted were olive and peach and pear and fig. Some of these trees are still standing near the old missions. For shade they planted the palm tree and the pepper tree. All these seeds and cuttings had come from Mexico.

Cattle and horses and sheep had been brought overland from Mexico. These animals were the beginnings of large herds. In a few years there were hundreds of cattle in the fields. They killed many for food. The hides were made into leather. The fathers taught the Indians to make the leather into shoes and boots and saddles.

The Indians were taught to dig ditches to carry water to the fields. At some missions there was not enough water. Then the Indians had to dig ditches for a long way to carry water from a distance.



MISSION SANTA BARBARA  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

Before the Spanish came, the Indians did not plant seeds. They did not raise any food. They did not water the ground to make things grow. They did not know anything about farming.

### BUSY LIFE AT THE MISSIONS

Everyone at the missions was busy. There was much work to be done. They did not have many tools. There was no machinery. There were no stores where they could buy what they needed. They had to make nearly everything they used.

Sometimes, ships came to Monterey and San Diego from Mexico. These ships would bring more supplies. The fathers would get what they needed from the ships. They paid for what they bought with hides and tallow. They raised so many cattle that they had plenty of hides.

Some of the Indians worked in the fields. Some of them took care of the cattle and sheep. Some worked making bricks. Others worked with the hides.

The Indian women learned to make yarn from the fleece of the sheep. They learned how to make this yarn into cloth. They learned to sew. They made shirts and dresses.

Other Indian women spent their time cooking for the missions. They had to grind the wheat and corn into flour and meal. They did this by putting the grain on a large flat stone and pounding it with a smaller stone. The Indians had always ground their acorns this same way.

Some of the women did the washing in the streams. They even had to learn to make their own soap.

The Indian children worked, too. They could help keep the animals out of the gardens. They could watch the adobe bricks drying in the sun. When the bricks were dry on one side, they had to be turned over. The children could do this.

The children also went to a church school. There they learned the lessons of the church. Some of them learned to sing the Spanish songs. Some learned to play the violin.

### SOME OF THE MISSIONS

The missions were alike in many ways. They all had the same kind of buildings. The fathers at each mission taught the Indians the same kind of work. But some of the missions grew larger and richer than the others.

The fathers tried to choose a good place to build each mission. They must have water for the fields, for themselves and the animals. Some of the missions were built near the coast. Some were built in pleasant valleys among the hills. At some places, the soil was good and crops grew well. In some places, the Indians were friendly and peaceful. They liked the fathers.

They were glad to come to the mission to live and work. Some of the missions had great fields of grain. The richest missions had thousands of cattle and sheep. From the vineyards and orchards, they had plenty of fruit.

There were twenty-one missions built in California. The first was built at San Diego in 1769. The last one was built at Sonoma in 1823. The other missions were between these two. They were like beads on a chain. But they were not close together. They were far apart.

The plan was to have a line of missions all the way from San Diego to San Francisco. Later, two more missions were added north of San Francisco, at San Rafael and Sonoma. The missions were to be about one day's journey apart. In those days all travelers rode horses or mules or had to walk. Travelers would be able to leave one mission in the morning and reach the next mission in time to sleep.

While Father Serra lived, he founded nine missions. Founded does not mean found. It means started.

After Father Serra died, the next Presidente of the California missions was Father Lasuén. He, too, was eager to build missions in California. The work of building went right on.

### EL CAMINO REAL

There was a dirt trail from mission to mission. This was called in Spanish *El Camino Real*. In English that means the King's Highway.

Perhaps you have had a ride in your automobile along a fine, smooth highway between San Diego and San Francisco. You may have noticed a large bell

on a post at different places along this highway. These bells are along *El Camino Real*. On some of the posts are signs telling travelers how far it is to the next mission.

*El Camino Real* you travel on today is smooth and easy to follow. In the days of the mission fathers, it was only a rough dirt trail. No bells were along the way to mark the trail. Over it the good fathers walked slowly or rode slowly on muleback.

At the Mission San Juan Bautista, there is a part of the old dirt trail still to be seen. It runs between the mission church and the old pear orchard. The pear trees in the orchard were planted more than a hundred years ago.

#### FATHER SERRA'S FAVORITE MISSION

The mission that Father Serra liked best was the mission near Monterey. This is the one he called his home. Here he stayed when he was not visiting the other missions. Here he died when he was a tired, old man. Here is his grave. Beside him lies the grave of his good friend, Father Crespí.

This mission is called the Carmel Mission. It is called that because it was built in the beautiful little valley of the Carmelo River near Monterey. The real name of this mission is San Carlos Borroméo.

At the Carmel Mission, we can see the bells sent out from Spain. Once, the fathers had to go away and leave the missions. They were not coming back. The Indians at the Carmel Mission hid the bells. They were afraid some of the new settlers might steal them. These bells were hidden for many years. At last, an old, old Indian who was dying told where they were hidden. Now, the bells are in the belfry again.

## THE MISSION AT SAN FRANCISCO

The mission at San Francisco was founded in 1776. This mission was named after a very good and famous man. He was St. Francis of Assisi. He was a man who started a society of missionary fathers. They came to Mexico and California to teach the Indians.

The mission's name is San Francisco de Asís. But it is nearly always called the Mission Dolores. It was built long ago when there was no big city of San Francisco. The mission was built beside a little lake named Dolores. This lake or pond was about two miles from the bay of San Francisco.

The land was swampy. The soil was not good. The Indians were poor. No one dreamed that someday there would be a big, big city for miles on all sides of this poor little mission.

Now, the swampy land is covered by paved streets and many tall buildings. The lake is gone. Many people do not know a lake was once there. A tall church stands beside the little mission. At first, you do not see the little mission church. But when you do see it, you notice what a beautiful building it is. In the churchyard of the mission are graves of many of old San Francisco's famous men and women. Bright-colored flowers bloom over their graves.

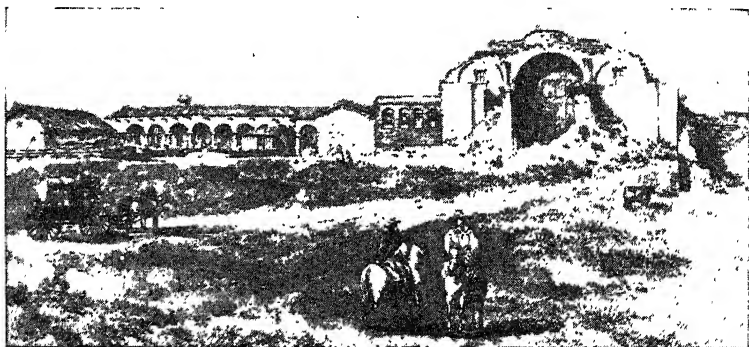
## MISSION SAN GABRIEL

Mission San Gabriel is near the city of Los Angeles. In the old days, many travelers stopped at San Gabriel. Several roads and trails passed this mission. It was at the crossroads. The old Spanish Trail into California from the desert came to this mission. *El Camino Real*, the road going north and south,

passed this mission, also. Many tired and hungry travelers were most happy to find their way to San Gabriel. Here they were treated with great kindness by the fathers. Here they would have food and rest and shelter. Here they could buy food and pack animals when they were ready to go on their way again.

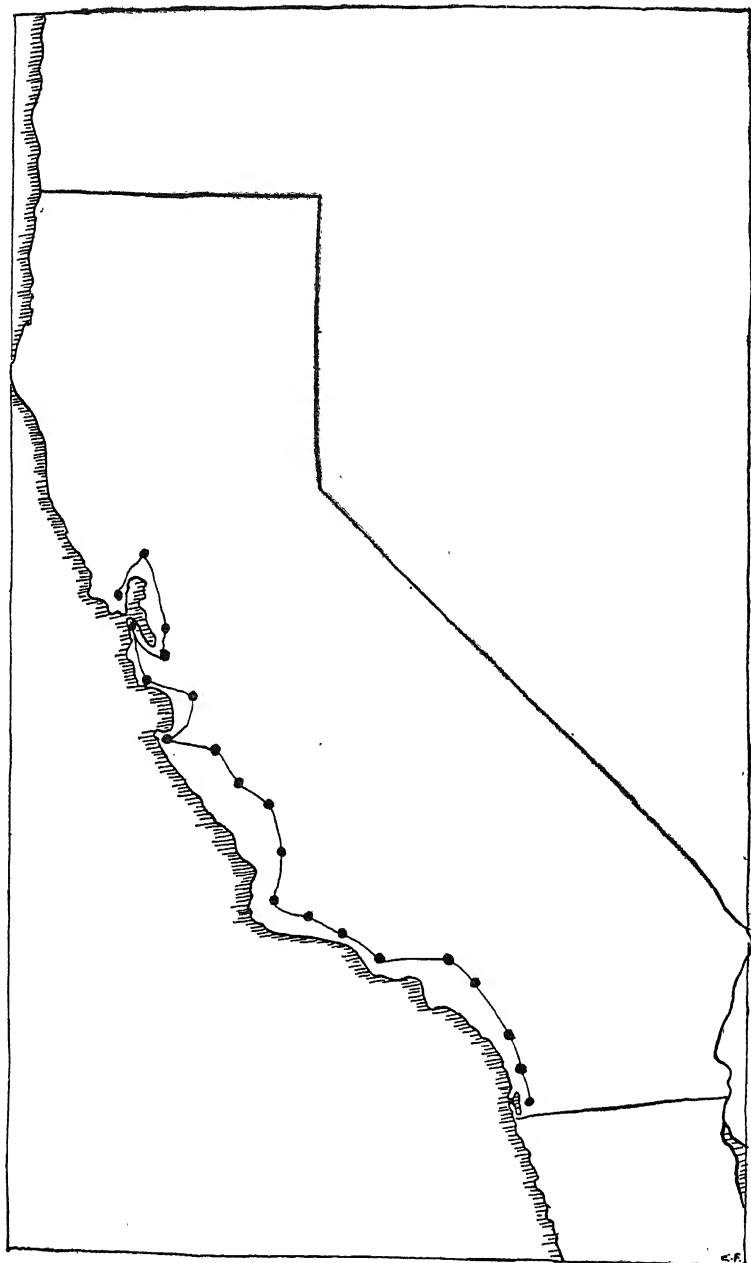
### MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Mission San Juan Capistrano was called the "Jewel of the Missions." This mission was built in the valley named by Portolá. It is between San Diego and Los Angeles. It is one of the most beautiful of



MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

the mission buildings. There is a large garden inside the mission walls. Here bright flowers bloom all the year. Fine arches are covered with vines. These arches show the best style of Spanish building. Big, old pepper trees stand in the garden. These trees were planted by the fathers long ago. There is a ruin of the old stone church.



MISSIONS

## A LIST OF ALL THE MISSIONS

Here is a list of all the missions in California. After each one is the year it was founded. One of these missions may be near your home. Perhaps you have seen some of them.

1. San Diego .....	1769
2. San Carlos (near Monterey) .....	1770
3. San Antonio .....	1771
4. San Gabriel .....	1771
5. San Luís Obispo .....	1772
6. San Francisco de Asís (Dolores) .....	1776
7. San Juan Capistrano .....	1776
8. Santa Clara .....	1777
9. San Buenaventura .....	1782
10. Santa Bárbara .....	1786
11. La Purísima .....	1787
12. Santa Cruz .....	1791
13. La Soledad .....	1791
14. San José .....	1797
15. San Juan Bautista .....	1797
16. San Miguel .....	1797
17. San Fernando .....	1797
18. San Luís Rey .....	1798
19. Santa Inés .....	1804
20. San Rafael .....	1817
21. San Francisco Solano (Sonoma) .....	1823

## THE MISSION FATHERS LEAVE

The time came when the fathers had to leave the missions and the Indians. The missions had grown strong and rich. The government of Mexico thought the missions had too much power. So an order came from Mexico to all the missions. This order said the fathers were to board ship and sail back to Mexico. The Indians were to care for themselves and the missions.

The fathers were very sad at leaving. The In-

dians were very unhappy to say good-by to the good fathers. The Indians were like children. They could not take good care of themselves. Some of them ran away to Indian villages where they could be wild and did not have to work. Others tried to take care of the fields and orchards as the fathers had taught them. But they needed someone to tell them what to do and how to do it.

Soon, the missions fell into ruin. The buildings began to crumble and fall. The cattle and sheep were driven away by settlers. There was no one to gather the crops. The missions were in ruins.

Some of the missions have been repaired. Now, they look much as they did in the mission days. Some are only piles of adobe bricks.

## Presidios and Pueblos

The missions were the first settlements in California. But there were other kinds of settlements made by the Spanish.

One kind of settlement was the presidio. Presidio is the Spanish word for fort. The presidio was the settlement where the soldiers lived and worked.

There were four presidios in California. The first one was at San Diego. The second was built at Monterey. The third one was at San Francisco. The fourth one was at Santa Barbara. The forts at San Francisco and Monterey are still called presidios.

The presidio at Monterey was founded by Portolá. It was built by the soldiers who were to live there. A wall of poles was built first. Inside the wall, the soldiers made little brush huts for themselves. Later, the wall was made of stone and the houses of adobe brick.

The soldiers had much work to do. They guarded the missions from the wild Indians. They traveled with the fathers when they went about the countryside. They watched the settlement at night. They hunted wild animals for food. Two soldiers always lived at each mission.

### PUEBLOS

Another kind of settlement made by the Spanish was the pueblo. Pueblo means town.

The King of Spain wanted many Spanish settlers to come to California. He wanted them to build homes here and live on the land. But people did not care to make the long trip over the desert. It was not easy to find people who were willing to travel so far. So the king gave many gifts to those who would go.

The gifts the king gave them were land in California, food, clothing, tools, and animals.

Each family was given land in the pueblo for building a home. Each family was given land for farming and raising food.

They would need tools for farming and building. The tools were a plow, a hoe, a spade, an axe, and a sickle. All these were carried overland to California with the settlers. There was no place in California where they could buy tools.

The animals they would need in their new homes were horses, cows, goats, sheep, oxen, and mules. Each family received two of each.

### SETTLING OF PUEBLOS

The pueblo of Los Angeles was started in September, 1781. It was built near a small river where the Indians had once had a village. In this pueblo there were forty-six people who came across the desert from Mexico. They built their first homes of brush.

The pueblos were to be built in a certain way. In the center of the pueblo was the plaza. California boys and girls know that plaza means park. On one side of the plaza were the jail, the guardhouse, the church, and the granary. A granary is a storehouse. The houses of the settlers were built along the other three sides of the plaza. The fields where the men farmed were out beyond these houses.

It was the king's plan to have several pueblos started in California. Another pueblo had been started at San Jose. Fifteen families started this pueblo. A road three miles long was made from San Jose to the nearest mission, the mission of Santa Clara. This road was lined with willow trees. It was called the Alameda. The avenue that leads from the present city of San Jose to the city of Santa Clara is still called the Alameda.

But the pueblos did not grow and prosper as the king had hoped. The people who came to live in the pueblos did not like to work. They wanted the Indians to do the work for them. The Indians did not ask much money for working. Soon the Indians were doing all the farming. The settlers were doing nothing. When you have nothing to do, you nearly always get into trouble. The settlers quarreled with one another. They sat around and watched the Indians work. They tried to amuse themselves by playing. Towns do not grow when people do not work to make them grow.

So the pueblo settlements were never very large or very strong.

## Traveling across the Desert with Captain Anza

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Captain Anza was a Spanish captain in charge of a desert presidio in Mexico. He wanted to take settlers from the town of Tubac in Mexico across the deserts to California. He asked many times to be allowed to try. At last, the Viceroy of Mexico said, "Yes."

Captain Anza had lived many years in the desert. The wild Indians there had killed his father. But he was not afraid of them. He was very brave and very strong. He was wise and careful in planning. He was kind to his men. He was the very best leader a party of settlers could have to lead them through a new and dangerous country.

The first band of men Anza led to California were Indians, soldiers, and two missionary fathers. They had a lot of troubles. Most of their horses were stolen by a band of Apache Indians. The Spaniards had to go back many miles to the presidio to get more horses. These horses were so poor and thin, Anza called them "stacks of bones."

The party started again. For 120 miles they traveled over a desert where not a single person was living. In this desert, there were only two places where there was any water. Many of the poor, thin horses died.

They reached the village of the Yuma Indians. These Indians lived near the great, wide Colorado



ANZA

*Courtesy of Bancroft Library and University of California, Extension Division*

River. They were friendly Indians. They were good farmers. There were fields of corn, beans, pumpkins, and watermelons in their village. The Spaniards were very much surprised to see these fine fields. They were very glad to have some of the melons and vegetables to eat.

These Indians were very friendly. If they had been unfriendly, the Spaniards could not have crossed the river into California. The Spaniards gave these Indians many presents. Anza gave the chief a necklace of money and a bright silk sash. The chief was very happy with these presents.

The Spaniards crossed the river. They found another desert. This desert is called the Colorado Desert. It is a desert of moving sand hills. These hills are very big. It was very hard to cross. They could not travel around the hills because the sand kept moving. There was no trail to California.

Anza had an Indian guide to help him. The first night the mules were so tired they could not go on. For six days they wandered among the sand hills. Then, they went back to the river. Here he was given a joyous welcome. Anza left most of the baggage and some of the men at the river. He took only the strongest men and horses with him.

This time they traveled down the river a long way before they started westward across the desert. This time he was able to find a way through the mountain passes. He found a way to get over the mountains and so reached the San Gabriel Mission.

From San Gabriel he went on north to Monterey. This part of the way was not so hard. There was a trail to follow. He had made this trip to California over the deserts. He knew he could bring a larger party to California. He went back again to Mexico

the same way he had come. This trip took him more than four months. But he knew the way now.

#### A PARTY OF SETTLERS COME WITH ANZA

A large party of settlers were made ready to travel to California. There were 240 men, women, and children in this party. They were all given clothing and shoes. The men were given guns and leather jackets. The women were given hats and shawls and ribbons to wear. Everything these people would need was given to them. They were promised food for five years after they reached California.

The party was all ready to start. Again the Apache Indians rushed upon the Spaniards and stole many horses. They stole 1500 this time. That left only 700 horses for the whole party. That was not enough. So, two or three children had to ride together on one horse.

They took 350 head of cattle with them. Some of these cattle they would eat for food along the way. All the cattle left would be given to the settlers when they reached California.

Every day the party started about eight o'clock in the morning. They kept riding until two or three in the afternoon. Then, they made a camp for the night. Four soldiers led the party. Then came Captain Anza and a missionary father. Then, the men, women, and children rode on their horses. Soldiers marched along beside them. They might meet wild, unfriendly Indians. Next came the three pack trains of mules. Then came the extra horses and last of all the cattle. Most of the time they sang songs as they marched. They did this to keep themselves happy and cheerful.

At last, they came to the village of the friendly Yumas. How glad the tired, dusty travelers were to see the green fields of beans and corn and melons! They ate so many melons that many of them were sick.

This time Captain Anza gave the chief of the Yumas a whole suit of Spanish clothes. There was a white shirt, a yellow vest, a blue coat, a black velvet cap, and a pair of dark trousers. None of the Yuma Indians wore any clothes. So the chief felt very proud of his bright-colored suit.

The Indians at the mighty Colorado River told Anza that the river was too wide and deep and swift for him to cross, but they helped him anyway. Anza looked for a place where the water was not too deep for the horses. It took him a whole day to find a place. There were so many people and animals to cross, that it took three hours. But nothing was lost. All crossed safely to the other side.

The party went on. They had to cross the desert of sand hills. This time, Anza knew how to go. He led the party across the sand in safety. But they had very little water to drink. For three days, they had almost no water for either the people or the animals.

They kept on toward the mountains. It was December now and the winds were cold. There was snow on the high mountain peaks. The Spaniards were used to warm weather. They had been very hot on the desert. Now they were cold crossing these mountains. On Christmas Eve they were in the snow.

They crossed over the mountains and went down into the level valley. In January they reached San Gabriel Mission. Here they could rest after their long trip. Here was plenty of food and plenty of water. Here the weather was mild and pleasant. It

was not hot like the desert or cold like the mountains. How happy they were!

Captain Anza went on north and explored as far as San Francisco Bay. The settlers he had brought were going up to San Jose and San Francisco to live. But Anza himself did not stay. In the spring he went back to Mexico. He was satisfied with his work. All of the 240 men, women, and children were safe in California. Here they would make their homes and be happy.

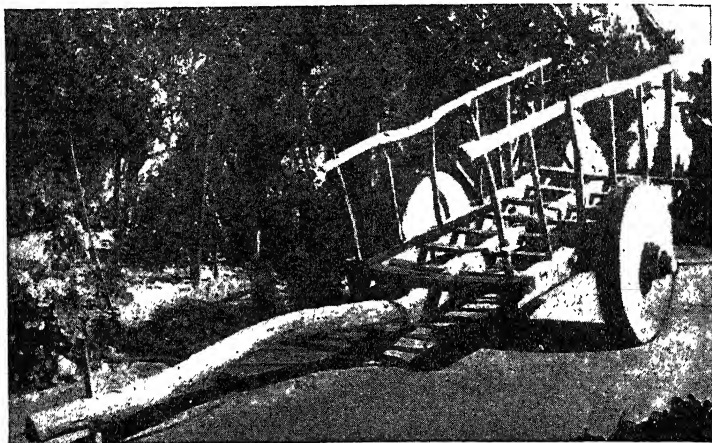
## Life on the Ranchos.

As the years went by, many Spanish families came to make their homes in California. They did not want to live in the pueblos. The King of Spain or the government of Mexico gave these families many acres of land for their own. These gifts of land were called land grants. So much land was given in these grants that often they did not know just how much land they really owned. The people did not pay for the land. But they were expected to build a house and live on the land. The man who owned the land was called a *ranchero*. The land was called a *ranch*o.

The houses on the *ranchos* were comfortable but very plain. The buildings were low with narrow, deep windows. The walls were of adobe and made very thick. This kept out the heat in summer and the cold in winter. Some houses had tiled roofs. The houses of the poorer people had roofs of thatch made of straw, tules, and mud or tar. The inside walls were whitewashed. The furniture was plain and very simple. Large adobe ovens were built outside. Here the cooking was done. The house was often built around an inner garden called a *patio*.

There were always many horses on the *ranchos*. The Californians traveled on horseback. Many of their games were played on horseback, too. Both men and women were expert riders. When they went visiting, they took many horses with them.

The only wagons these people had were clumsy carts with heavy, wooden wheels. These carts, called *carretas*, were drawn by oxen. The wheels were made of thick blocks of wood. There were no springs. Riding in a *carreta* was most uncomfortable. The axles creaked loudly as the *carreta* jogged along over the rough ground.



A SPANISH CALIFORNIA CARRETA

Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division

### CATTLE ON THE RANCHOS

Every *ranchero* owned many cattle. California was a good place to raise cattle. There were miles and miles of pasture land. There were springs and streams where the cattle could drink. Each *ranchero* had many Indian servants to watch his herds. These herdsmen were called *vaqueros*. *Vaquero* means cowman.

Cattle were useful in many ways to these early Californians. They furnished meat and hides. The meat was cut in strips and dried. That was the best

way to keep it. There were no iceboxes in those days.

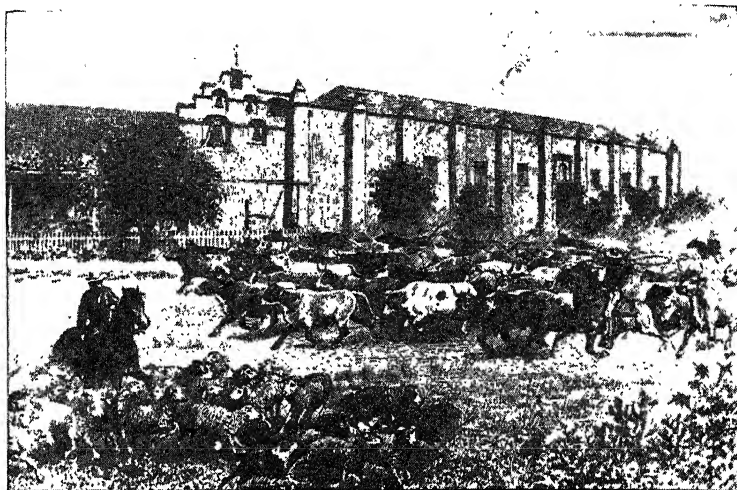
The hides had many uses. They made saddles and harness for the horses. They made shoes and boots. Chair seats were made from hides. Hides were stretched over four poles to make the beds. Strips of hides were used for ropes. Strips of hides were used instead of nails to fasten poles together in building houses. Bags, big and small, were made from hides. Hides made the leather jackets the men and soldiers wore.

Sailing vessels came to San Diego and Monterey to trade. The *rancheros* and the mission fathers would trade hides and tallow for the things they needed. The captains of the sailing ships knew what these people in faraway California needed and wanted. They had regular stores on board the ships. They sold cotton cloth and silk, stockings, shawls, nails, hinges, knives, and tools of all kinds. Sometimes, they brought window glass, beds, chairs, and tables.

The ship captains were glad to be paid in hides and tallow. Most of these captains were Americans. They took the hides back to the United States to sell. Each hide was worth about two dollars. Twenty-five pounds of tallow was worth \$1.50.

### RODEOS

Every year the Californians held a *rodeo*. *Rodeo* is the Spanish name for roundup. It meant the rounding-up of all the cattle. All year the cattle roamed over the hills and valleys. There were no fences to keep the cattle of the different *rancheros* apart. Every spring there were many new calves. These calves had to be brought in to be marked with the mark of their owner.



EL RODEO

*Courtesy of California State Library*

This mark is called branding. Branding is done by burning a mark on the side of the calf. This mark might be a letter or a circle or a few straight lines. Each *ranchero* had his own mark. That was the only way to tell the cattle apart.

The cattle were driven by the *vaqueros*. The cattle belonging to the different *rancheros* were separated and put into corrals. Corrals are pens for livestock like cattle and horses. The branding was done. The cattle were then set loose to roam again until next *rodeo* time.

The *rodeo* often lasted a week. The Californians liked *rodeo* time. They met their friends. The women had a good time visiting. The children played together and went on picnics. At night there was dancing. The *rodeo* ended with a grand ball for the *rancheros* and their families. Everyone for miles around came to this ball. *Rodeo* time was holiday time.

## DANCING AND MUSIC

The Californians liked dancing very much. They were very good dancers. A dancing party was often called a *fandango*. Sometimes, the dancing lasted all night.

The *cascarón* ball was one of their favorite kinds of parties. To make the *cascarones*, many eggs were saved. A hole was broken in the end of each egg, and the insides were carefully removed. The shells were then filled with finely cut paper of different colors or with perfumed water. The holes were sealed with wax. At the dance these eggs were broken over the heads of the dancers.

The Californians were very fond of music. Many of them played an instrument like a guitar. The men often walked about at night playing and singing sweet songs. They often sang while they were dancing. Everyone seemed to be able to sing and dance very well.

## AMUSEMENTS

Besides the *rodeos* and *fandangos*, the Californians had other ways to amuse themselves. They liked horse racing. Since all Californians were such good horseback riders, these races were very exciting.

They went bear hunting. Sometimes a fight was held between a bull and a bear. These fights were very fierce.

The Californians had many feast days. These were called *fiestas*. They had a special *fiesta* whenever they could find a reason. One good reason for a *fiesta* was the coming of a new governor from Mexico. Another reason for celebration was the coming of a trading ship.

## KINDNESS TO VISITORS

The Californians were very friendly and kind to visitors. They welcomed anyone who came to their homes. These travelers were given food and shelter. Horses were lent to them if needed. Visitors were invited to stay as long as they wished. Often *fiestas* were given for them.

The travelers who came to California wrote about the great kindness shown them. That is one way we know so much about how these people lived.



HORSE RACE IN PASTORAL CALIFORNIA

*Courtesy of M. H. de Young Museum and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

The government did not want strangers to come to California. But the Californians were very happy to see visitors and treated them most kindly.

## SPANISH NAMES AND CUSTOMS IN CALIFORNIA

Many cities and rivers and mountains in California have Spanish names. Perhaps you live in a

city or town with a Spanish name. Do you? Do you know what the name means?

CALIFORNIA, itself, is a Spanish name. We do not know exactly what California means. The name, California, was first used in a story written before America was discovered. In this story, California was the name of an island far, far away. Here lived black-skinned people ruled over by a queen, Queen Calafía. On the island there were much gold and many pearls. Some of the early Spanish explorers gave the name California to the land they discovered on the Pacific Coast north of Mexico.

Here is a list of other Spanish names in California. You may know some that are not on this list.

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Alameda .....         | avenue of poplar trees     |
| Contra Costa .....    | the opposite coast         |
| El Dorado .....       | the gilded one             |
| Fresno .....          | ash tree                   |
| Los Angeles .....     | the angels                 |
| Mariposa .....        | butterfly                  |
| Monterey .....        | from the Count of Monterey |
| Nevada .....          | snowy                      |
| Palo Alto .....       | high tree                  |
| Pajaro .....          | bird                       |
| Sacramento .....      | Sacrament                  |
| Salinas .....         | salt marshes               |
| San Bernardino .....  | St. Bernard                |
| San Diego .....       | St. James                  |
| San Francisco .....   | St. Francis                |
| San Joaquin .....     | St. Joachim                |
| San Jose .....        | St. Joseph                 |
| San Luis Obispo ..... | St. Louis, the Bishop      |
| San Mateo .....       | St. Matthew                |
| San Rafael .....      | St. Raphael                |
| Santa Barbara .....   | St. Barbara                |
| Santa Clara .....     | St. Clare                  |
| Santa Cruz .....      | Holy Cross                 |
| Santa Rosa .....      | St. Rose                   |
| Sierra .....          | saw, ridge of mountains    |

## SPANISH WORDS WE USE

Did you ever eat a *tamale*?  
Have you gone to a *rodeo*?  
Is there a *plaza* in your town?  
Have you ever seen *adobe* bricks?  
Do you live where *tules* grow?  
Have you a *patio* kind of garden?  
Did you ever go to a *barbecue*?

## SPANISH STYLE BUILDINGS

Many California homes and public buildings have been copied from the Spanish style of building. We have white-plastered walls and red-tiled roofs. We often build an inner court or garden and call it a *patio*. In the *patio* we plant flowers.

Modern Californians like to eat outside, just as the Spanish Californians did. In our parks and sometimes in our own gardens, we build outside ovens for cooking our meals.

All Californians like picnics and celebrations. We are glad to have *fiestas*. We welcome visitors from other lands and other states. We are proud of our California.

## Russians in California

You remember that the Spaniards did not want anyone else to sail on the Pacific? They did not want anyone else to come to live in California, either. For many years no one did care to come. But after awhile other nations sent out ships and brave men to the New World. Some of these ships came to the Pacific Ocean. Some of these ships even stopped at the harbors of San Diego and Monterey to trade with the people of California.

Russia was also a large powerful country. The ruler of Russia sent his ships across the Pacific to America. Russian men and women crossed this wide ocean to make their homes in Alaska. There they built fur-trading stations. They made much money from the fur trade. There were thousands and thousands of seals in the waters of the Pacific.

A fur-trading company named the Russian American Fur Company was formed. This company wanted to make other settlements along the Pacific Coast. Alaska was not a very pleasant place to live. It was not a good farming country. The Russians could not raise grain and fruit for themselves. They had to depend on supply ships to bring them what they needed. When the ships did not arrive on time, the Russians had to go hungry. Often they were sick. Sometimes they were starving.

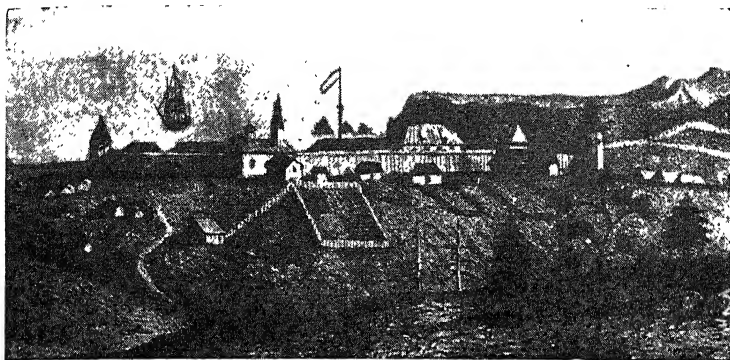
A Russian officer brought one of the fur-trading

ships that came to Alaska. He decided to go south to the Spanish settlements in California to try to trade for food for these sick, hungry people.

After a stormy voyage, the little ship reached San Francisco Bay. They sailed in but they were not sure the Spanish would let them stay. However, the commander of the Presidio of San Francisco treated them kindly. This commander could not give them permission to trade with the Spanish settlers. Only the Governor could do that. The Governor came up from Monterey to San Francisco to talk with the Russians. He was a long time in deciding that it would be proper for the Spanish to trade with the Russians. He did give permission for the Russians to sell their cargo. The Spanish were very eager to buy the boots, cloth, and tools the Russians had brought. Then, the Russians bought food from the Spanish. The Russians took away with them corn, flour, beans, peas, salted meat, tallow, and soap. They sailed back to Alaska with this fine cargo.

A few years later a party of Russians came down again to California. This time they made a settlement. They bought some land from the Indians. This land was north of San Francisco Bay in the section now known as Sonoma County. One of their settlements was on Bodega Bay. The river flowing through this land is still called the Russian River. The Russians did not pay the Indians money for the land. Indians liked other things better than money. The Russians gave them three pairs of trousers, three blankets, three hoes, two axes, and some beads.

The Russians built a wooden fort. Around the fort grounds was a strong wooden wall called a stockade. In the stockade were blockhouses with cannons for protection. These cannons had been brought all the



FORT ROSS ABOUT 1830

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

way from Russia. The fort was named Fort Ross.

Russian workmen and some Eskimos from Alaska came to live at this settlement. The Eskimos hunted along the coast for the seal and sea otter. These furs were rich and valuable.

The Russian settlement grew. The Russians were engaged in different kinds of work. There was a tannery for tanning hides to sell. They made tiles and kegs and barrels. They did some shipbuilding. They raised grain to send to the settlements in Alaska.

In 1841, there were many horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs belonging to this Russian settlement. There were two mills, a shipyard, tannery, and a blacksmith shop. Three hundred people were living in the Russian settlement.

But the Spanish did not like to have the Russians living in California. They told them many times to go away. The Spanish governors wrote to the Russians and asked them to leave. But the Russians stayed on in California for more than thirty years. Then they sold all their land and possessions to John Sutter and left California.

There are a few place names to remind us that once the Russians lived in California. There is the Russian River named after them. Perhaps, some of you boys and girls have gone swimming in that river. There is the mountain called Mt. Saint Helena, named by the Russian Princess Helena for her patron saint.

The old Russian church is still standing at Fort Ross.

## A Change of Flags

For many years the Spanish ruled over California. The governors lived at Monterey because that was the capital city. There were ten Spanish governors. Portolá was the first Spanish governor, though he did not stay in California very long.

The Spanish flag was California's flag for a long time. When Cabrillo came to California in 1542, the Spanish flag was flying on his little ships. The Spanish flag came again with Vizcaíno sixty years later. When Portolá and Father Serra came to build missions and presidios in California, they brought the Spanish flag with them.

Mexico, also, belonged to Spain in those days. But after many years of being ruled by the King of Spain, the Mexican people wanted to be free. They wanted to make their own laws and rule themselves. So the Mexicans went to war against Spain and fought for several years. At last, they won their freedom in the year 1822.

The people who lived in California did not know when the war ended. They were so far away that they always had to wait months to hear what had happened in the other parts of the world. One day, the people of Monterey were surprised to see a ship with a strange flag sail into the bay. This strange flag was red, white, and green. It was the new flag of Mexico. This new flag was to be California's flag now. California no longer belonged to Spain. Mexico

had won her war with Spain, so California now belonged to Mexico.

The Spanish flag was taken down from the presidios and from the Customs House in Monterey. The Mexican flag was raised in its place. After this, the governors who came to rule over California were Mexican governors. There were twelve Mexican governors of California.

During the Mexican rule over California, much land was given away to settlers. Most of these settlers came from Mexico. But some men from other countries came, also, and made their homes in California. They became Mexican citizens and land was given to them, too.

Some California towns were named for these earliest foreign settlers. The towns of Livermore and Gilroy were named for an Englishman and a Scotchman. Sutter County and Lassen County were named for John Sutter and Peter Lassen. Many smaller places have names taken from these early settlers. Are there any in your part of California?

## Fur Traders and Trappers Find the Way to California

Some Americans had come to California on the sailing ships. They liked California and stayed to make homes for themselves. The Californians were kind and friendly to them. But they did not want more Americans to come. They did not expect any Americans to come overland. They thought that the only way the people could come from the United States was by sea.

They did not think that anyone could come over the mountains into California. Along the eastern side of California is that high range of mountains with the Spanish name—the Sierra Nevada. There was no path or trail or road over these mountains. In wintertime no one could cross through the deep, deep snow. The Indians were the only ones who had ever crossed the mountains in the summer. Of course, the Spanish did not believe any Americans would try to come that way.

But there was a young American who did. He was Jedediah Smith. He was the first American to come overland to California. He came in 1826.

Jedediah Smith worked for the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. This was a large, powerful company of men who were in the business of trapping and selling furs. This company hired many fur trappers to go out into the wilderness to trap wild animals. Along the little streams and rivers of the Rocky

Mountains there were many otter and beaver. The furs of these animals were rich and soft. In those days, many people in the cities wore beaver coats and hats. Otter coats were worn in many lands. Otter skins were worth about three dollars each. Beaver skins were worth about four dollars each. These were the prices at the fur-trading posts in the wilderness. The price was higher in the cities.

The trappers went about the country finding new streams where they could set their traps. In doing this, they discovered many places that other white men had never seen. They discovered the low places in the mountains where they could pass through. They discovered more rivers and valleys. Some rivers and mountain passes are named for the men who first discovered them.

When they had a good supply of furs, the trappers went back to the fur-trading posts. These trading posts were small settlements in the wilderness. One of the few houses was used for storing the skins and keeping supplies. Here the trappers could leave their furs and get trinkets for trade with the Indians.

These trappers were brave men. They were not afraid of Indians or wild animals. They were strong men. They could stand much cold and stormy weather. They could go hungry when they had no food. They were wise in finding their way through wilderness and in strange places. They were expert hunters. They had to kill all their own food as they traveled.

They dressed in suits of leather. They wore long leather shirts and leggings. They wore moccasins as the Indians did. Their long hair hung around their shoulders. On their heads they wore caps of coonskin or beaver. They carried guns and knives.

## JEDEDIAH SMITH

Jedediah Smith was one of these trappers. He wanted to find some new country for trapping. He wanted to go where no other trappers had been.

One August day in 1826, he started westward on horseback. With him went fifteen men. They had about fifty horses and a supply of goods. They followed rivers wherever they could. Sometimes, the land was rocky. Sometimes, it was bare, hot desert. They traveled for many days where they could find little water. They crossed a salt plain twenty miles long. Here the ground was covered with a crust of thin white salt.

They crossed this desert country into California. They were far toward the south. They came to the San Bernardino Mountains. They found a pass and climbed over the mountains. As they traveled on, they saw many cattle and sheep. They were coming nearer and nearer to the Spanish settlements. In the month of November they reached the San Gabriel Mission.

At this mission they were treated kindly. They were given plenty of food. Here they rested after their long, hard trip over the deserts and mountains. They stayed here until the middle of January. In the party, there were some blacksmiths. These men made a large trap to set in the mission orchard. It was to catch the thieves who came at night to steal oranges. They also made horseshoe nails for their own men to use.

Jedediah Smith went down to San Diego. The Governor was there. He was not pleased to hear that a party of Americans had come over the mountains into California. He thought more Americans might

try to come the same way. He would not give these American trappers permission to stay in California. He told them they must go away as soon as they could. He said they must not stop at any of the Spanish settlements.

Jedediah Smith bought some horses at the mission. He bought food supplies and ropes and blankets. Then he started to leave. He led his party into the great inland valley of California. To go eastward out of this valley, they would have to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains again. But this time they were much farther north. It was the middle of winter. The snow was too deep on the mountains for the horses to travel. They would have to stay all winter in California after all.

They made a camp along the banks of the Stanislaus River. Here they waited for spring. In the spring, Smith started again. This time, he took only two of his men, seven horses, and two mules. The mules were heavily loaded with hay and provisions. The rest of the party stayed at the camp. They would be busy trapping beaver and getting the furs ready before Smith's return.

The little party crossed the mountains while the snow was still deep in many places. Three of the animals died. But the men kept on and crossed the deserts of Nevada. In June they were at Great Salt Lake.

Here Jedediah Smith gathered another party of men and started back toward California. He traveled the same way as he had on the first trip. The party stopped on the banks of the Colorado River. This mighty river flows along the southeastern edge of California. They traded with the Indians near the river. At first, these Indians were very friendly.

After a few days, the Indians changed. They suddenly fell upon the party and killed all but seven.

These seven hurried as fast as they could go. They traveled day and night over the desert. Again they reached the San Gabriel Mission. Here they were given food and water. They had been traveling over desert country so long that they needed water very much.

From San Gabriel they went north. Smith wanted to find his men in the camp on the Stanislaus River. When he found them, they were almost starving. They had no food and no horses.

Smith had to cross the valley to get supplies for his men at some Spanish settlement. He went to the nearest mission. This was the Mission San José. Here he was not treated kindly. The Spanish were greatly displeased to see him again. He had come back again to California after the Governor had told him to leave. He was put in jail by order of the Governor. Here he had to stay for a couple of weeks. Then he was sent as a prisoner to Monterey. This time the Governor was in Monterey.

The Governor would not give him permission to leave. He kept Jedediah Smith in jail in Monterey from May until November. He did not seem to know what to do with this American.

Some American trading ships came into Monterey harbor. The captains of these ships heard about Jedediah Smith. They talked with the Governor. They asked him to let Jedediah Smith go free. The Governor said he might go, but he must promise never to come back again. He could stay two months to get horses and supplies ready to make the trip over the mountains.

Smith and his party of trappers started eastward.

They went through the delta country of the great central valley, trapping as they went. Since this was the rainy season, they had to travel through swamps. It took them three weeks to get to the Mokelumne River. They camped near present Lodi. There was so much snow on the mountains to the eastward that they did not try to cross them. Turning northward instead, they traveled through the valley while they waited for the snow to melt. They made camp and spent some time on a large river that flowed into the Sacramento. Afterward, the Indians and Spaniards called it the American River because these Americans had camped there. It is still called the American River.

April came, but the snow was still deep on the Sierra Nevada. The trappers could not find any place where they could cross the mountains. Jedediah Smith decided to go northward and find a way to the coast and on into the Oregon Country. In the Oregon Country, there was a wide and mighty river named the Columbia. He thought that they would be able to follow this river and find their way back to the Rocky Mountain country again.

They crossed the Sacramento River somewhere near Red Bluff and worked their way over the Trinity Mountains to the ocean.

The country along the coast was wild and rough. There were no trails to follow. No one had gone this way before them. The weather was stormy. In some places, the mountains were so steep it took hours to lead the horses down the mountainside. One of the horses fell over a cliff and broke his neck. There was very little grass for the horses to eat. Every day two men had to go on ahead with axes to cut away the brush. This made it easier for both the horses and the

men to travel. On they went for nearly three months.

When they came to rivers they had to build rafts so they could cross. In crossing one river twelve horses were drowned. The men tried to keep near the ocean shore so that they would not wander into the deep, thick forests and be lost. When they were able to shoot a deer, they were very glad. That meant fresh meat.

One Sunday in June they camped along the Oregon coast. They were tired and glad to rest. On Monday morning all the men stayed in the camp while Jedediah Smith went on ahead to scout. He wanted to see what kind of land lay before them. As he was returning to the camp, he met one of his men, John Turner, running wildly. John Turner was running for his life. The Indians had come to the camp and killed all the men except two. But John Turner thought he was the only one left alive. He was a big man with great strength. He had saved his own life



FORT VANCOUVER, HEADQUARTERS OF HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California. Extension Division*

by knocking down four Indians with a big stick of firewood.

Smith and Turner thought all the others were dead. They thought the Indians might still be near the camp. They did not go to the camp to get their furs. They hurried into the forest to escape. For weeks they traveled on through the forests, trying to keep away from Indians. They had no horses to ride. They had to kill what they could find for food.

Tired and worn and hungry, they reached the friendly shelter of Fort Vancouver. Fort Vancouver was a settlement on the Columbia River. A British fur-trading company had a fur-trading post here. The other American trapper who had not been killed had also made his way through the forest. He had reached Fort Vancouver just the night before Smith and Turner arrived. How surprised they were to see one another again!

The man in charge of the trading station was Dr. McLoughlin. He gave them food and a place to rest. He listened to the story of their adventures. He heard how the Indians had killed the trappers and taken the furs. He said, "We will get those furs back again for you."

The Americans thought it could not be done. But Dr. McLoughlin said, "You stay here and rest. I will send some of my men."

He called his men and told them to take twenty horses and some blankets and food. This food was dried salmon, peas, grease, and potatoes. The men rode away to search for the Indians. In a short time they were back. Somewhere in the wilderness, they had found the Indians. They had made the Indians give them the furs. They brought the furs to the fort. Dr. McLoughlin bought these furs from Jedediah

Smith. He paid a very good price. He did not pay him with money. That would have been too heavy to carry. He gave Jedediah Smith a check instead of money.

Jedediah Smith went back alone to Salt Lake this trip. The other men did not want to leave the fort.

Never again did Jedediah Smith return to California. Later, he sold his interest in the fur-trading business. He traveled westward with a large party of trappers. This party was traveling through the desert. There was no water. The horses were dying. Some of the men were sick. The party divided. Jedediah Smith went alone through the desert looking for water. He hoped to find a spring or a water hole that would save the party from dying from thirst.

He found a pool of water in the dry, sandy bed of a river. He stooped to drink. He was quickly surrounded by a band of unfriendly Indians. We do not know how long he fought against them. But he was a brave man and an expert shot. We know he gave those Indians a great battle before they killed him. The Indians took his rifle, his pistols, and his knives. His body they threw away. They did not know that they had killed one of the bravest and best of all the American trappers and explorers.

## John Sutter Makes a Settlement

John Sutter was an early settler in California. He came in 1839 and started a settlement on the Sacramento River. He was not an American. He was a Swiss. He left his home and family in Switzerland and crossed the ocean to America.

He did not want to live in the cities. He wanted to make a home in the Western wilderness. He joined a party of fur traders going West. He heard many tales about California from these men. He thought California must be the very place for him and there he would go.

It was not easy to get to California overland. There was the Santa Fe Trail used by the Spanish. It crossed the desert and was a hard way to travel. He heard it would be better to take the north trail to the Oregon Country.

Sutter started toward Oregon with another party of trappers. The trappers were not going all the way. Sutter and six men went on alone on horseback. After many adventures in a wild country, they reached Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. This was a fur-trading post for the Hudson's Bay Company. It was here that Jedediah Smith and his two men were treated so kindly.

Sutter and his men stopped here to rest. The governor of the fort invited them to spend the winter. But Sutter wanted to go on to California. He wanted

to travel over the mountains, but that could not be done in winter.

The fur company had a ship ready to sail to the Sandwich Islands with lumber and furs. Sutter and one of his men sailed on the ship. The Sandwich Islands are now called the Hawaiian Islands. They are many, many miles from California. But Sutter hoped to find another ship there sailing to California.

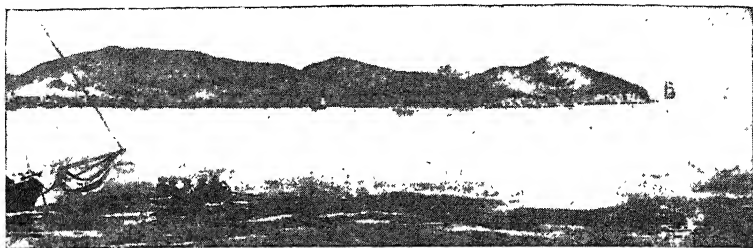
In the Sandwich Islands, he had to wait five months. No ship going to California came in during that time. Then he went in charge of a trading ship to Alaska. The Russian settlers in Alaska needed many things. Trading ships went there to trade for the rich furs the Russians had.

This was Sutter's second long voyage on the Pacific. With him went eight Kanakas to be his servants. The natives of the Sandwich Islands were called Kanakas. Two of these men brought their wives. Later, these women were very helpful in the settlement Sutter made.

In Alaska, the goods they had brought were traded at high prices for furs. John Sutter made friends with the Russians. He always made friends wherever he went. The Russians were sorry to see him sail away. They did not expect to see him again. But some of them did see him again in California.

The ship sailed away toward California. How glad John Sutter must have been! He had long been trying to get to California. At last, he was started. The Kanakas were happy, too. They did not like the cold climate in Alaska. They were used to the sunny skies and warm winds of their island home.

On and on the ship sailed. No other ships were seen. There was nothing but sea and sky. They sailed through high winds and heavy storms. Great



YERBA BUENA IN 1837

*From a drawing by J. J. Vioget. Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

waves dashed against the ship. It was a long, stormy voyage.

On July 2, 1839, the ship sailed into the harbor of San Francisco. San Francisco was not a big, busy city then. It was only a little village named Yerba Buena. There were only a few houses. Trading ships from other countries had to go first to the Customs House at Monterey before they could trade at other California harbors. An officer and fifteen soldiers came on board the ship. The officer told Sutter he could not stay.

"You must go to Monterey," he said.

Sutter told him they needed food, for they were almost starving. Their ship must be repaired. The officer consented to let them stay two days. At the end of the two days, the ship sailed to Monterey.

In Monterey, John Sutter told the Governor he wished to make a settlement in California. He asked for permission to do this. The Governor told him he could have land for a settlement in the inland valley somewhere along the Sacramento River. The Governor was glad to have a settlement there.

The Indians in the valley were wild and unfriendly. They did not like the Spanish. They came down to the little California towns and stole horses.

A settlement with a fort would help to protect these towns.

In those days, the government was still giving away large grants of land. There were no surveyors to measure and mark off this land. The grant given to John Sutter was to be eleven square leagues of land somewhere on the shores of the Sacramento River. Sutter himself would choose the land and decide just where it was to be. Land was measured by leagues instead of acres in those days. This first grant of land given to Sutter would be about seventy-five square miles.

John Sutter went back to the little village of Yerba Buena. He sent the ship back to the Sandwich Islands. He bought food and tools. He bought some cattle and horses to be sent to him later. He asked how to find the mouth of the Sacramento River. No one knew where it was. Sutter and his men had to sail about for eight days trying to find where the river emptied its waters into San Francisco Bay.

They sailed up the river. With Sutter were his eight Kanaka servants, six white men, and his bulldog. The dog was very useful later. On the banks of the river about ten miles from the place where the city of Sacramento now stands, they saw a band of Indians. These Indians were ready to fight. They had on their war paint. There were about five hundred of them.

The men swung the boats close to the shore. Sutter called out to the Indians in Spanish. He thought some of them might understand Spanish. There were two who understood what Sutter said.

Sutter told them that he and his men were not Spanish. He said he was their friend and was going to live here on the river. The two Indians told the

others what Sutter said. Then they rowed out to his boat. They stayed with Sutter and worked for him after that.

The party sailed on up the river. They went as far north as the mouth of the Feather River. Sutter was looking for a good place to make his camp. The men grew afraid and asked him to go back.

They came back to where the American River flows into the Sacramento. Here they saw a wide, fertile valley with thick grass and tall oak trees. Here they landed and tied their boats.

First they set up their cannon. Sutter had bought a cannon in Yerba Buena. He knew the Indians might try to fight. He intended to be ready for any trouble. The men put up their tents. The Indians came and watched them. But they did not try to fight.

Sutter told his men that any who wanted to go back with the boats to Yerba Buena next day might do so. Three of the men went because they did not like the wilderness. Sutter did not try to keep them. He knew they would not make good settlers in a wild, strange land.

### BUILDING THE SETTLEMENT

About two miles from the river was a small hill. It was the only hill in sight. Sutter decided to build his fort there. The camp was moved to the hill. The white men lived in tents. The Kanakas built grass huts for themselves. Sutter set some of the Indians to making adobe bricks. It took many days for the bricks to dry in the sun. It would take many bricks for the buildings.

The Indians came and watched the white men at work. They seemed to be friendly. Some of them came to work for Sutter. Sutter thought it would be

safe to send his one little boat down the river to Yerba Buena for supplies. Most of his men went in the boat to bring back the cattle he had bought.

Sutter was left alone in the camp with only a few servants and his dog. One night an Indian came into Sutter's tent. He had a club in his hand. He intended to kill Sutter while he was asleep. But the dog heard him and sprang up. He struggled with the Indian and drove him away. Three different times during the early days of settlement this brave dog saved Sutter's life.

The men were gone a long time down the river. Two of them came back on the boat with the supplies. The others came by land driving the cattle. They were afraid of the Indians. They thought it would be safer to have most of the men together on this trip.

In the spring, Sutter set the men to plowing. The Indians made more bricks. The little boat went up and down the river bringing supplies. More men came to live in the settlement. Some of them were carpenters and blacksmiths. These men were a great help in the work of building a strong settlement in the valley wilderness.

In 1840 a large adobe building was built. This was Sutter's own house. Around the settlement was a high adobe wall. Cannons were placed in the four corners of the wall. Inside the wall were many smaller buildings. These buildings were stores, warehouses, granaries, shops, and homes.

Sutter bought more cattle and horses. Grain and vegetables were planted. Fruit trees were set out.

The Indians began to be troublesome. They stole or killed many cattle and horses. Sutter often had to go out with his men to fight the Indians. In after years, the Indians were friendly with Sutter and told

him they were very much afraid of the cannon. If they had not been so afraid, they would have killed him and all his men the first few days.

#### MORE LAND FOR JOHN SUTTER

The Russians wanted to leave California. They sold all their land and possessions to John Sutter in 1841.

Sutter moved everything that could be moved to his fort. He had bought cattle, horses, and sheep. These were driven over the hills and up the river to the fort. He bought tools, lumber, doors, windows, cannons, rifles, and a boat.

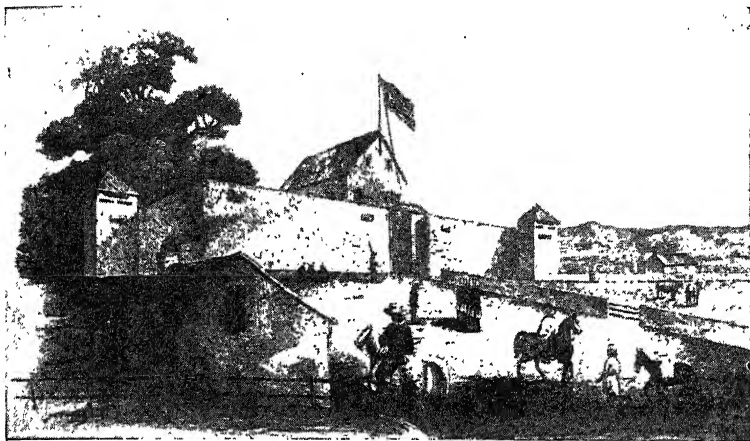
Sutter promised to pay for all this with products he would raise on his land. He expected to raise wheat, barley, and peas. Besides these he would pay with hides and tallow.

Sutter and his men worked hard building and planting. Every year more and more settlers came to the valley. Most of these settlers were Americans. John Sutter liked Americans. He hoped that someday California would belong to the United States.

He sold many acres of land to these Americans. These settlers built their homes in different parts of the valley. That is the way many little towns in the valley were started.

At Sutter's Fort, the settlers found much to help in making their new homes. There was a tannery on the bank of the river. Here the hides from Sutter's cattle were made into leather. There were many uses for leather. There was a factory where the Indians made blankets. A flour mill was built. Here the wheat raised in Sutter's fields was ground into flour.

Indian women worked in the gardens raising vegetables. Near the fort there was a stream of water.



FORT SUTTER IN 1847  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

They carried water from this stream to the gardens. They raised berries, melons, grapes, and vegetables.

There were orchards, too. Peach, pear, apple, fig, olive, and almond trees grew in straight rows.

By 1846, the little settlement had grown to be a big settlement. Another little town named Suttersville was started down the river about three miles from the fort.

John Sutter now owned many miles of land. His land was really a small kingdom.

He owned 12,000 cattle, 2,500 horses, 2,000 sheep, 1,000 hogs, and 70 mules. He had a tannery and several mills. He owned the fort and the buildings. Three of his boats made regular trips up and down the river.

The settlement was so big and rich that the Mexicans wanted it for themselves. They were worried because so many Americans had come and settled in the valley. They offered to buy the land they had given Sutter. They offered him many thousands of

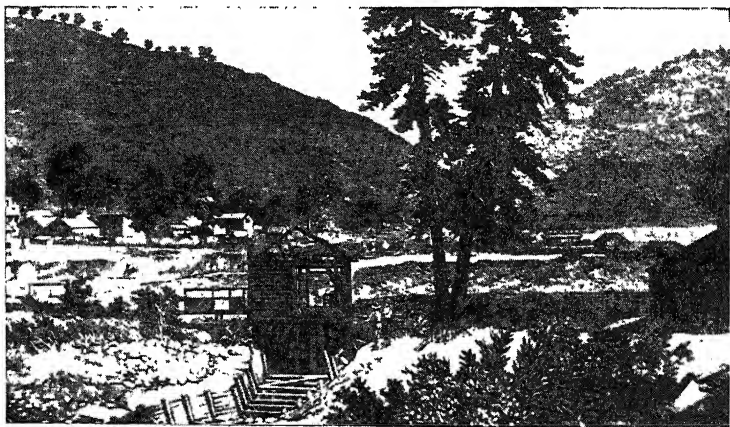
dollars. But Sutter said he did not want to sell.

John Sutter was very kind to all the emigrants who came to his part of California. One of the parties was caught in the heavy, winter storms in the mountains. Many of the party died in the snow. A few men made their way down to Sutter's Fort. Sutter quickly sent men, mules, and food to rescue the rest of this party.

### BUILDING A SAWMILL

In August, 1847, Sutter decided to build a sawmill in the mountains. Then he could have his own lumber cut. He hired a man named James Marshall to take charge of the building. The mill was to be built about forty miles away from the fort in a little valley on the American River. The Indians called the place Coloma.

Marshall and the men who were to help set to work on the mill, worked all fall and into the winter. They built log cabins for themselves. They cut down trees and trimmed them into lumber. Many Indians came and helped with the work.



SUTTER'S MILL

*Courtesy of California State Library*

A ditch was dug for carrying water to the mill. This ditch was called a millrace. Every night, water was run through the race to carry away the loose dirt.

Early on the morning of January 24, 1848, James Marshall was walking along beside the millrace. He noticed some shining yellow particles in the dirt. He picked them up. They might be gold. He knew that gold could be hammered out into a thin sheet without breaking. He hammered a piece on a rock. He hammered it out and it did not break.

Four days later, Marshall went down to Sutter's Fort on horseback. He asked to see Sutter alone. He even wanted the door locked so no one could come in while they were talking. He showed Sutter the tiny flakes and grains he had found. Sutter tested them. They were gold.

Marshall was happy and excited. He thought this would make him a rich man. He knew there were more golden flakes in the gravel and dirt at Coloma.

Sutter was not so happy. He thought the discovery of gold might not be a good thing for him. He knew his men would not want to work in the mills and fields and gardens any more. They would want to look for gold.

The two men decided not to say anything about this gold for awhile. Sutter wanted to have the work at the mill finished. He rode up to his mill at Coloma on the first of February and stayed for several days. He picked up several flakes of gold.

He called all his men together. He asked them to promise not to tell anyone for six weeks that gold had been discovered. In six weeks the mill would be finished. They all promised.

#### THE NEWS ABOUT GOLD

The men at the mill went on working. One day, a



SACRAMENTO IN 1849  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

man came up from the fort with provisions. He saw the grains of gold. He took some back to the fort with him. Soon other men at the fort knew about the gold. Men began leaving their work to go up to the hills.

In May, Sam Brannan, who kept a store at the fort, went down to San Francisco on the boat. The little town of Yerba Buena was now called San Francisco. He ran down the main street with a bottle of gold grains in one hand. He waved his big hat so everyone would see him.

"Gold! Gold!" he cried. "Gold from the American River."

After this people began to get very much excited about the discovery of gold. Every boat that could sail up the river was crowded with men. Crowds of men came to Sutter's Fort on their way to the gold fields.

By August, 1848, most of Sutter's men had stopped work to hunt for gold. His mills were no longer run-

ning. No one was working in the fields. Hides lay rotting in the tannery.

### GOLD DISCOVERY RUINS JOHN SUTTER

John Sutter had been very kind to all the emigrants and travelers who came to his fort. But the men who came seeking gold were not kind to John Sutter. They took his horses. They trampled over his grain fields. They killed his cattle for food.

He rented the fort to some men and moved to his ranch on the Feather River. This ranch was called Hock Farm. His family came out from Switzerland to live with him. His three little boys were young men now. His little daughter was a young lady.

Sutter owned much land in California. This land had been granted to him by the Mexicans. Many men came and settled on his land. But many of these settlers would not pay him for the land. These men said the land was not John Sutter's and that they had a right to settle on it. That made trouble. John Sutter went to court about it. The court decided that the first grant to John Sutter from the Mexicans was his land. But all the other grants of land were not legal, so other men could settle on that land.

John Sutter went away from California. His land was gone. His farmhouse at Hock Farm had burned. The fort was falling into ruins. He made his home in one of the Eastern states, Pennsylvania.

Every year he went to the city of Washington to ask the Congress of the United States to pay him for the land the Americans had taken from him. He kept asking until he was an old man, but he did not get the money.

Sutter died in 1880 and was buried in the peaceful little village of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

## The Americans Come in Covered Wagons



Many Americans began to come to California. They came to make their homes here. They had heard about the pleasant, sunny climate, about the many animals, about the miles and miles of land that would be so fine for farming.

Many families traveled westward. They traveled over plains and mountains and deserts. They had to cross many rivers and climb many high mountains. They had to travel through the Indian country and the land of the buffalo.

There were no roads. There were not even trails in most places. The only men who could show them the way were the fur trappers. It was a long and dangerous journey. Many times, they had to go without water. Often, they had little food. Sometimes, they were attacked by the Indians and killed.

These brave people were called emigrants. Emigrants are those people who leave their old homes and make new homes in another land.

These emigrants could not travel as we do in trains or automobiles. There were no trains or automobiles to bring them. They had to travel in big wagons called covered wagons.

### COVERED WAGONS

The covered wagons were pulled by oxen. Oxen travel very slowly. The wagons went only a few miles

a day. Many families traveled together so they would be safer from Indian attack. That made a long train of wagons moving slowly westward. The women and children rode in the wagons. Men rode alongside on horseback.

In the wagons they carried their bedding, clothing, and kitchen goods. Their stoves were put on a little platform at the rear end of each wagon. The kitchen utensils were plates, cups, basins, churns, pots, pans, and water kegs. They brought the churns so they could make butter. Most of the emigrant parties brought cows along with them so they could have milk. They also carried many farming tools to use when they reached California.

### TRAVELING

There were many rivers to cross. When the rivers were not too deep, the emigrants rode through the water in their wagons. But some rivers were too deep. Then they had to use big rafts to carry the wagons over. The animals had to swim across. Crossing a river was always very slow.

Sometimes, it rained as they traveled. The heavy wagons sank into the soft, wet dirt. The men and boys had to cut down trees and brush to put under the wheels so that they could get out of the mud.

Often on the grassy plains the emigrants could find no wood for their campfires. They had to scrape up bits of dried grass and use even the tiniest twigs.

When they stopped for the night, the camp was made with the wagons drawn up into a square or a circle. Inside the circle the stoves were set up. Fire was made and the evening meal cooked quickly. The emigrants slept in their wagons or in tents. The horses and mules were hobbled with rope so they

could not run away. Some of the men always stayed on guard at night.

### WILD ANIMALS ON THE PLAINS

There were many wild animals on the plains. This was the hunting ground of many Indian tribes. The men and boys in the emigrant parties were all good hunters. They often killed animals for food. They killed the deer and the antelope. Sometimes, they found flocks of wild turkeys.

The emigrant wagons had to travel for many miles over the great grassy plains. The plains were the home of the buffalo. Sometimes, the plains would be black for miles with buffalo. When the herds of buffalo ran over the plains, the ground trembled and shook.



IN THE BUFFALO COUNTRY

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

The buffalo traveled with their heads close to the ground because they did not see well. Often, they ran over everything in the way. If the emigrant wagons were in the way the buffalo might run right over them, animals and all.

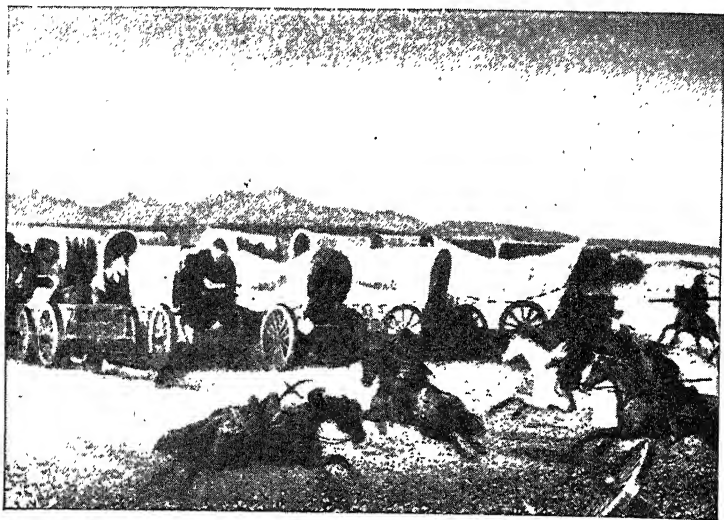
The buffalo were not afraid of the wagons. They would not get out of the way. When emigrant parties had to ride through the herd the men would try to drive them away with pistol shots and with clubs. The wagons seemed to be moving through a sea of buffalo.

The Indians hunted the buffalo for food and hides. They used the hides for clothing, for blankets, and for making their tents. It was not easy to kill the buffalo. Their hide is thick, very thick. It did not hurt them to be hit on the head. The buffalo had to be shot through the heart or the lungs. That was not easy to do.

## INDIANS

There were many Indian tribes on the plains and in the mountain country. They did not like to see so many white people coming into the land they thought was their own. This land was the hunting ground of many Indian tribes. The Indians did not want the white men to come to live in their hunting grounds.

The emigrant parties met many Indians. Some of them were kind and friendly. They would trade for food with the emigrants. Many Indians were not friendly. Some of the emigrants were killed by these Indians and their animals and goods stolen. The Indians liked to own horses. They stole horses from the emigrants whenever they could. When the emigrants saw Indians galloping toward them, they



INDIAN ATTACK ON OVERLAND CAMP

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

never knew whether they would prove to be friendly or unfriendly.

### A LONG JOURNEY

The journey to California was so long and dangerous that it took the covered wagons six months to make it. The emigrants had to start in the spring so they would be across the Sierra Nevada Mountains before winter. There was no way to cross the Sierra when covered with snow.

The early emigrants followed the Oregon Trail westward. This trail had been made by the fur trappers and early explorers of the West. It was about two thousand miles long. The trail began in the town of Independence on the Missouri River, and led into the Oregon Country north of California. It

followed rivers wherever possible. The emigrants who were coming to California followed the Oregon Trail for more than half its length before turning southwest toward California.

## The First Emigrant Party

The first emigrant party to come overland to California in covered wagons was the Bidwell Party. This party came in 1841. A young man named John Bidwell was the leader. When the party started in the spring there were sixty-nine men, women, and children. They had teams of oxen, mules, and horses but no cows.

They did not know the way. They only knew they must travel west. At first they traveled with a band of trappers and missionaries. These men were going out to the Oregon Country. Their leader was Thomas Fitzpatrick, one of the famous fur trappers of that time.



CROSSING THE PLAINS IN '49

*From painting by A. P. Hill. Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

Along the way they hunted buffalo for food. There were thousands of buffalo on the plains. The buffalo were traveling north. The emigrants heard them running at night. One night so many buffalo came that the emigrants had to set fires and shoot off their guns to try to turn the animals in another direction. If they had not made the buffalo turn, the wagons and emigrants would have been crushed.

One day one of the hunters came running back to the main party. He came without his gun or his mule. He was very much excited because he had met some Indians. He said there were thousands of them. They had taken his gun and his mule. Some of his clothes were gone, too.

Everyone became excited and wanted to run. But Captain Fitzpatrick took charge. He had the emigrants put their wagons together in the form of a hollow square with the animals inside. This was the best way to be prepared to fight.

But when the Indians rode up on their horses, they proved to be the friendly Cheyenne Indians. There were not thousands. There were only forty. They had the hunter's gun and mule. They did not mean to keep them. They said they had not torn off his clothes. He had been so excited he did not know what really happened.

When they reached Soda Springs, the fur trappers, the missionaries, and many of the emigrants went on to Oregon. There was a fairly good trail to Oregon. But there was no trail at all to California.

Only thirty-two emigrants decided to go to California. They started on alone with no guide. They were told not to go too far south or they would get into the country of the great salt plains. As they traveled on they had to stop often to dig a way

through the steep banks. Everywhere they found bushes of sagebrush. It was difficult to make their way through it.

They wandered on into the salt plains. This was a country without water or grass. The ground was covered with a thick crust of salt. All about them, the land was like a winter snow scene. But it was most unpleasant. They were near the Great Salt Lake. The water was too salty to drink.

After they left the Salt Lake country, they had many other troubles. It was hot and dusty traveling. There was still very little grass to be found for the animals. There was never much water for either people or animals. They soon knew they were not traveling fast enough to get to California before the winter snows began.

They decided to leave the wagons behind. Then they could travel faster. They packed their goods on the backs of the mules, horses, and oxen. None of the men knew how to pack bundles and bags properly on the backs of animals. Soon after they started on, the packs began to slip. This frightened the animals. They kicked and jumped. The packs were shaken off and scattered on the ground. The men had to learn to pack better so that the packs would stay in place.

They came to the canyon of the Humboldt River. Here they had to walk over rocks. The rocks hurt the animals' feet and made them sore. The poor creatures could scarcely stand. But there was no place to lie down. They had to keep on.

One man named Bartelson and a few others left the main party and went on alone. They thought they could find a way to get to California before the others. But they failed to do this. They were soon tired and

sick and were glad to come back to their friends again.

They came to the Walker River. They followed this river up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They did not know the name of these mountains but they knew they would have to climb the high, steep wall ahead of them.

Only two oxen were left. The poor animals were very thin and bony. However, they killed one and dried the meat.

The party bravely began to climb the mountains. At night it was cold and dark. The wind howled in the tall trees. The river dashed noisily on in the darkness. They felt far away from all the world.

They reached the summit of the mountains and found a small stream flowing westward. This was the beginning of the Stanislaus River, which flows from the Sierra down into the San Joaquin Valley. They followed this river down through the canyons. It was not easy to do this, for the canyon was steep and rocky. The men had to carry water in kettles and in their boots for the animals to drink. They had to push and pull the mules to get them through the narrow places.

One day in the distance they saw the dim blue line of mountains toward the west. They thought they would have to cross those mountains, also, before they reached California. The emigrants were in California then but did not know it!

They came on down into a beautiful valley. They saw the groves of trees and green grass. They saw wild grapes growing. They saw antelope and deer. Here was plenty of food for men and animals. They killed some deer and antelope and dried the meat.

The grassy valley stretched for miles and miles

ahead of them. It was a pleasant sight. But the weary travelers thought they still had one more mountain range to climb. They met a cowboy from the ranch of an American settler named Dr. Marsh. They asked him questions about the country. He told them they were already in California. He took them to the ranch of Dr. Marsh. Here they were given food and shelter.

The members of the party separated and went to different parts of California to make their homes. John Bidwell went to Sutter's Fort. John Sutter hired Bidwell to work for him. John Sutter had just bought the Russian property near the coast. John Bidwell was put in charge of the moving. He worked for Sutter for a few years.

Then he bought some land in the upper part of the Sacramento Valley. This land had been a Mexican land grant of thousands of acres. It was called the Rancho del Arroyo Chico. That means the Ranch of the Little Creek. On this ranch he raised horses and cattle. He started the town of Chico. This town takes its name from the old name of the ranch.

John Bidwell lived in California the rest of his long life. He was one of California's fine pioneer settlers and citizens.

## John Frémont, the Pathfinder

An American explorer who came to California was John C. Frémont. He came several times. He was a soldier in the American army. He was sent out to explore the Western wilderness. Across this wilderness the emigrant parties were making their way to start new homes. But no one knew just how to go. Frémont was to explore this wilderness and find the best way for traveling.

Frémont had trappers for guides. One of these guides was Kit Carson. Kit Carson was a fine guide. He knew much about the country. He could talk with the Indians in their own language. He was a good hunter. He had lived many years in the wilderness and knew all the wilderness ways.

Another famous guide was Thomas Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick was called White Head by the Indians. He had thick white hair. His hair had turned white once when he was hiding from the Indians. They had killed his friends, and he did not want them to catch him.

In Frémont's first exploring party there were thirty-nine men. They had twelve carts drawn by mules. Frémont even took along a brass cannon in case he had to fight with the Indians. All the men carried guns, knives, and pistols.

Along the way they saw the fires of emigrant camps. They passed by the graves of emigrants who

had died on the way. The party crossed the high, towering Rocky Mountains. Nowhere could they find any trails. They had to make their own.

On the desert near the Great Salt Lake, they bought horses, vegetables, and berries from the friendly Shoshone Indians. They were very happy to see a large lake of water. It looked like a sea to them, they had been looking at plains and mountains so long. The rubber boat that Frémont had brought along was useful in exploring this lake.

From the Salt Lake country they traveled to the Oregon Country. They followed along the rivers and crossed mountains until they reached the mighty Columbia. Frémont stopped at Fort Vancouver for supplies.

The same kind man who had helped Jedediah Smith and John Turner sold supplies to Frémont. This man was Dr. McLoughlin. Frémont bought horses, mules, and cattle. He bought enough flour, dried peas, and tallow to last three months. He thought that they could get back to their starting place in three months. They drove the cattle along to use as food on the way.

Frémont planned to return another way. He wanted very much to find a lake and river that people believed were in the mountains near California. For a long time explorers had believed there was a river flowing from Salt Lake into the Pacific. They even named this imaginary river the Buenaventura. No explorer had been able to find it. But they thought if they could, that would be the best way to get to California.

Frémont's party left the Oregon Country late in November, 1843. They traveled south and passed many beautiful, snow-capped mountain peaks. They

spent a week looking for the Buenaventura River. They did not find it.

They crossed the mountains down into the desert country again. Here they could find little grass for their animals. It was cold and dry in the desert. They saw some Indians sitting shivering around a campfire.

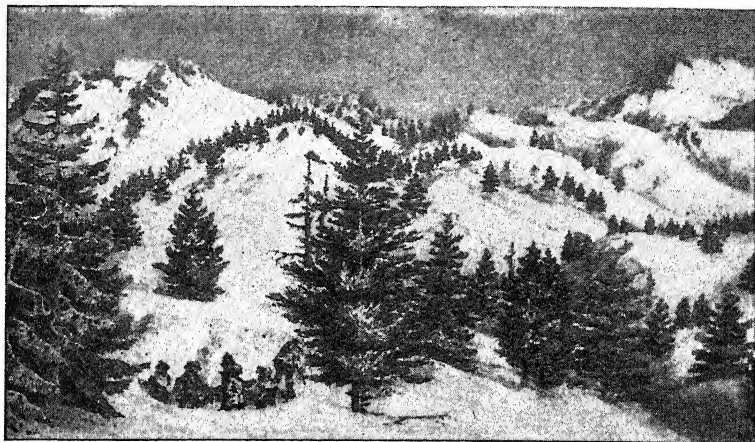
In January they came to an Indian village near a river. This is the river we call the Truckee River. Here the Indians gave them some salmon-trout. They had a great feast. The men were very hungry. The Indians kept bringing them more fish. The Indians laughed to see the white men eat so much fish.

The party traveled on, hoping to find the Buenaventura River. They could not move very fast because their cattle and horses were lame. Many could hardly move at all. Frémont knew they would not be able to cross the great stretch of desert wilderness ahead of them. He could not get any other animals here. So he decided to try to cross the mountains into California.

#### CROSSING THE SIERRA NEVADA IN WINTER

Crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains in winter was very dangerous. No white man had ever done it. These half-starved men knew nothing about these mountains. They had no maps. They did not know where the passes were. They did not know how deep the snow might be. The Indians they met made signs to them to go back. Their first Indian guide ran away.

Frémont and Carson kept telling the men about the beautiful Sacramento Valley. Frémont had not seen it. But Carson had been there. He told them it was



PASS IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS

*Courtesy of California State Library*

only about seventy miles to Sutter's Fort in the valley. There they would find food and shelter.

The first day they traveled sixteen miles. The next day they made only seven. The snow was so deep that the horses kept sinking down into it. The men had to beat down the snow to make a path for the horses to walk on. Even then, many horses could not go forward.

They met an old Indian man. He made signs to show there were many rocks. By signs he showed how the horses would slip. He talked loud and fast. Although they could not understand the words, they knew he was warning them not to go on.

That night the men were very sad as they sat around their campfire. It was too cold to sleep. But they could not turn back.

The snow was twenty feet deep in some places. The men wore snowshoes and walked in single file. They tramped and beat down the snow for the horses. Frémont, with Fitzpatrick and Carson, went on

ahead. From the top of one of the mountain peaks they saw a dim line of mountains to the west. Carson said those mountains were the Coast Range Mountains near the ocean. Through a telescope, he saw a dark line in the valley that he thought was the Sacramento River. They went back to the men and told them the Sacramento Valley was before them. But there were many miles of snowfields and forests and canyons to cross yet.

In the middle of February, they reached the very top of the Sierra Nevada. Here they crossed over through a pass Kit Carson had discovered. It is called Carson Pass in his honor. Here Kit Carson carved his name and date 1844 on a tree. The tree is no longer standing. But the part where he carved his name was saved. It can be seen in the collection of relics at Sutter's Fort.

On this trip, they did not have enough food. They had to eat mule and dog meat. The poor horses even tried to eat the saddles.

How happy they were to reach Sutter's Fort! Here they rested for two weeks. John Sutter made them as comfortable as he could. He sent his boat down the river to Yerba Buena for more supplies.

He sold Frémont everything he needed. Frémont bought blankets, clothing, soap, food, and horses. He bought mules and cattle. Sutter had saddles made for the horses.

Frémont returned to the East by the southern way. He did not try to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He used the old Spanish Trail.

#### FRÉMONT'S SECOND TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

Frémont came again to California in 1846. This time he had sixty men with him. Fitzpatrick and Kit

Carson with other noted hunters and guides came with the party. On this trip he brought two Delaware Indians and many horses.

They traveled this time in the summer and had little trouble in crossing the mountains into California. Some of the party stayed at Sutter's Fort. Frémont and others began moving about exploring.

War had begun between the United States and Mexico. But Frémont did not know this. He was ordered to leave California by the Mexican general, Castro. He did not obey. He traveled about, observing the country. He built a log fort on a peak near Salinas. Here he waited for General Castro to come and fight him. But the Mexicans did not come.

Frémont began moving slowly toward the north. He did not want to leave California. He wanted to be in California if war should begin. But he could not find a good excuse to remain. Again he went to Sutter's Fort. He moved slowly up the valley. He made camp at many different places in the valley. He reached the northern part of California. He stopped at the ranch of Peter Lassen. Lassen was an early settler in that part of California. Lassen Peak is named for him.

After Frémont left Sutter's Fort, a messenger arrived from Monterey. This messenger was an American Navy officer. He had come with government messages for Frémont.

Sutter gave this messenger two men as guides and fresh horses. He told him which way Frémont had gone. The messenger dashed away up the valley, hoping to overtake Frémont.

He found Frémont at Lassen's ranch. He gave him the message. The message was not written. So we have no copies. We do not know just what the

messenger told Frémont. But whatever it was, it made Frémont decide to stay in California.

That night Frémont was so excited about the message that he did not leave any guard on duty at the camp. Toward morning, Kit Carson heard Indians. They had killed one man already as he lay asleep. The white men sprang up to fight in the darkness. Several men were killed and wounded. The chief of the Klamath Indians was killed. The Americans found he had many poisoned arrows.

After this battle, Frémont moved southward. He made a camp in the Marysville Buttes. Later, he went down to the American settlements.

#### THE BEAR FLAG REPUBLIC

The Americans and the Californians were having trouble. General Castro gave orders for all Americans to leave California. The Americans did not wish to leave.

A small party of Americans decided they would capture General Vallejo, a Californian leader who lived at Sonoma. General Vallejo had been friendly toward Americans. He was much surprised to be awakened one morning and told he was a prisoner of Americans. He was sent to Sutter's Fort. He was kept there several weeks.

The Americans knew that what they had done would cause trouble. They thought they would have a government of their own for the Americans in California. They could not use the American flag, for they were not acting for the American government. They decided they must have a flag of their own.

The men made the flag themselves. It was made from white cotton cloth. On it a bear and a star were

painted. A strip of red flannel was sewed across the bottom. The words CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC were painted under the bear. This flag was called the Bear Flag.

The Americans raised this flag in the little town of Sonoma. They intended to raise it in other places. Soon, they heard there was a war between the United States and Mexico. They took down the Bear Flag and raised the Stars and Stripes. The Bear Flag was adopted as the state flag of California in February, 1911.

When Frémont learned that war was declared, he began to help the Americans, and he fought on their side against the Californians.

#### WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

There was not much fighting in California. Most of the people were willing to belong to the United States. The biggest battle was fought near the settlement of Los Angeles. Here the Americans had to fight a couple of days to capture the town.



RAISING AMERICAN FLAG AT MONTEREY, JULY 7, 1846

*Courtesy of Carruth and Adamson and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

The war between the two countries lasted for two years in other places. The war ended in 1848. The United States won California and much other land from Mexico.

For the last time, California changed her flag. California was now American country. Americans could come and live here. The land was American land. The flag was the flag of the United States.

#### FRÉMONT'S INTEREST IN CALIFORNIA

Frémont thought California was a beautiful land. He wrote about his adventures in California. Many Americans wanted to come after they read his story. He explored about in many sections. He gave names to many places. He was the first man to call the entrance to San Francisco Bay the Golden Gate. He was the first American to see Lake Tahoe.

Frémont was given a large grant of land in the San Joaquin Valley. He lived in California and was one of the first senators from California to the Congress of the United States. He thought of California as his home.

## The Story of the Donner Party

In the spring of 1846 a party of people left their homes in Illinois to go to California. They wanted some of the good farming land they had heard about. They brought along many farming tools. They brought beads, bright-colored handkerchiefs, and earrings to trade with the Indians they would meet.

For the first few months all went well. In the middle of July they reached Fort Bridger, far out in the wilderness. Here they met other emigrant parties bound for Oregon or California. Here they heard about a new trail. This trail was called the Hastings Cutoff. It was said to be a shorter way to reach California.

Some of the parties decided to take this cutoff. They wanted to go that way to save time. But they lost much time and suffered greatly.

In this party there were several families with small children. The party was now called the Donner Party because one of the leaders was named Donner.

It was a great mistake for them to take this cutoff. They were a month instead of a week getting to Salt Lake. They had much trouble climbing up and down the high, steep mountains. Their supply of food began to get low. It was not enough to last through the journey. Two men went on ahead to hurry to Sutter's Fort to bring back food to the party.

In September, the party reached the alkali plains.

There was great suffering for all. The water barrels were empty. Food for the cattle was gone. The sun was hot. There was no shade. There was no grass. Ahead, the thirsty emigrants thought they saw a lake. They hurried to reach it. But there was no lake. There was no water of any kind. The sun, shining on the hot, white sand, had caused an image of a lake to appear. Many of the cattle died on the desert.

The party struggled on. The children had to be carried. Some of the heavy wagons were left behind.

Two of the men had a quarrel over the oxen. In the quarrel, James Reed killed the other man with his hunting knife. The rest of the party decided Mr. Reed would have to go on alone. He took his gun and some food with him. His wife and children stayed with the party.

Mr. Reed tried to leave little messages along the way for his family to find. He killed birds for food. He scattered the feathers about. He left pieces of paper fastened to twigs of bushes. Then his family knew he had passed that same way they were going.

In October the party met one of the men who had been sent ahead to get food. He was Charles Stanton. He brought mules loaded with flour and dried beef. John Sutter had sent this food to the hungry emigrants. The other man was too sick to make the long trip over the mountains. He stayed at Sutter's Fort.

The Donner Party now made another mistake. They were so tired and sick that they stayed several days to rest in their camp. If they had hurried on, they might have escaped the storms.

That fall the storms began earlier than usual. Soon, the Donner Party was caught in the snow. The snow fell faster and faster. The air grew colder. The chill winter winds began to blow. Soon, the snow was

deep, the oxen could no longer pull the wagons. The wagons were left. The people struggled on, carrying their children and some small bundles.



CAMP AT DONNER LAKE  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

They came to a lake where there was one rough cabin. This cabin had been built by other emigrants. Here they had to stop. They built rough shelters from poles and tree branches. Their blankets were brought from the wagons. They knew they would have to spend the winter here in the cold, deep snow.

They killed the oxen for food. But that was not enough. They ate whatever they could find. They chewed on hides. They even boiled the hides and tried to eat the thick glue they made. They ate bark and pine twigs. But this was not real food. Many were sick from cold and hunger. Many died. For months they stayed there freezing and starving.

In December a party of fifteen started out through the snow. The snow was twenty feet deep. Still

these men and women struggled on. Half of them died. The others, after much suffering, reached Johnson's ranch in the valley. The town of Wheatland is built on Johnson's land.

Word was sent to Sutter's Fort about the Donner Party lost in the snow. Help was sent at once, but did not reach them for weeks. The pack horses could not get through the deep snow. The men in the relief party had to carry the provisions on their backs.

The relief party reached the lake in the middle of February. They found many of the emigrants dead. Those still alive were nearly starved. They started to walk through the snow toward Sutter's Fort. On the way they met another relief party coming with food. Mr. Reed was with this party. What a joy it was for him to see his wife and children again!

Other relief parties came to help. All the Donner Party still living were taken to Sutter's Fort. But most of the people were dead. Eighty people had been snowed in at the lake that terrible winter. Only forty-eight of them lived to reach Sacramento Valley.

## The Days of the Gold Rush

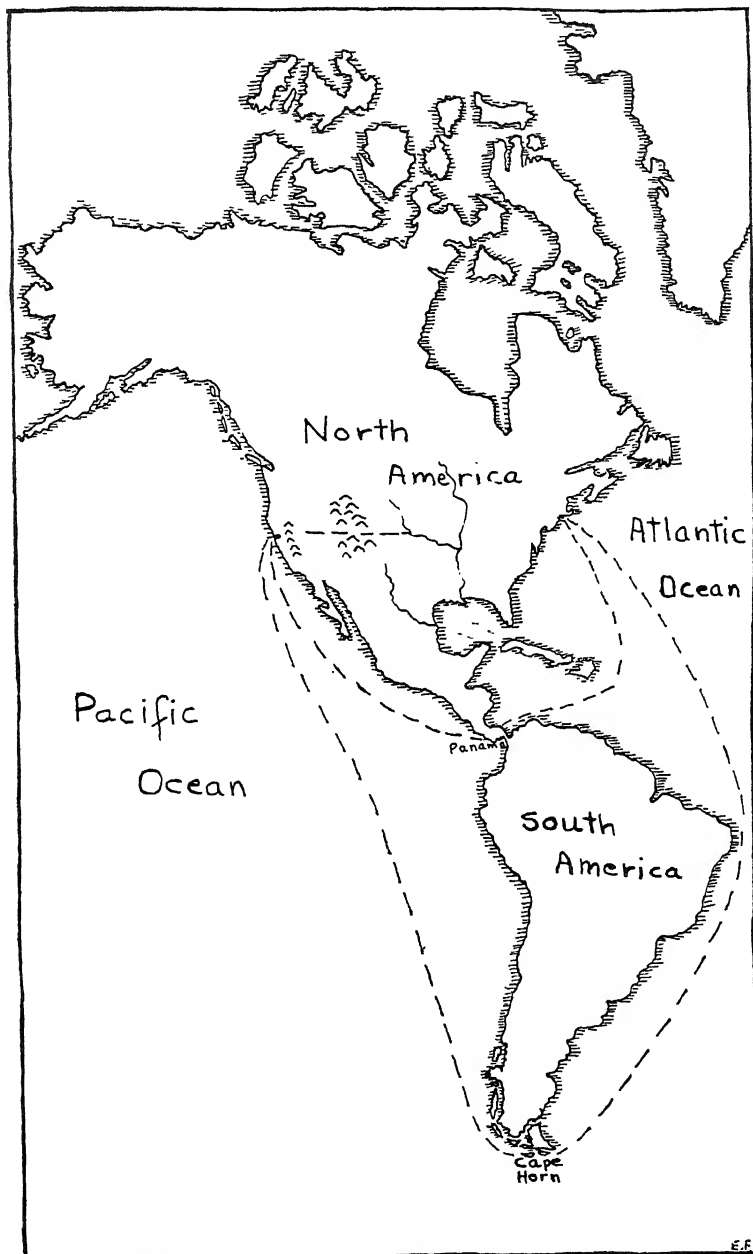
After gold was discovered at Coloma, there was great excitement in California. By 1849, all the world was talking about California. Thousands of men left their homes and families to come to find gold. They came from every country near and far. Every ship that sailed to California was crowded with men. Across the land they came in covered wagons. So many men came to California in 1849 that they were called the forty-niners.

Why were they coming? They were hoping to find a fortune in the California mines.

Gold had been discovered in January, 1848. But there were no telephones or telegraphs in those days. There were no radios to carry the news. It took many months for the rest of the world to hear about the discovery. It took many more months for the gold seekers to reach California.

There were three ways to reach California. All were long and hard and dangerous. One way was to come overland in covered wagons. This way took six months across the plains and mountains. Because of the snows, people could not come in the winter. Many tried this overland way and died on the trail from sickness or starvation, or were killed by the Indians.

Another way was to sail all the way around South America. This was a very dangerous trip. There were many storms on the ocean. Many men died on the



THREE WAYS TO TRAVEL TO CALIFORNIA IN GOLD RUSH DAYS

crowded sailing ships. It took six months or more to make the trip that way.

A third way was to cross the Isthmus of Panama. There was no canal cut through the land in those days. Ships could not go from the Atlantic to the Pacific as they do now. The gold seekers sailed down the east coast to Panama. There they left the ship. They traveled across the swamps and mountains of Panama. On the Pacific Coast they waited for a ship sailing to California. Sometimes, they had to wait a long time. It was hot and damp in Panama. Many men had fevers and other sicknesses. Many of them died and were buried on the beaches. Some were in such a hurry to get to California that they did not wait for the big ships. They tried to go in small ships, and some of those were lost at sea.

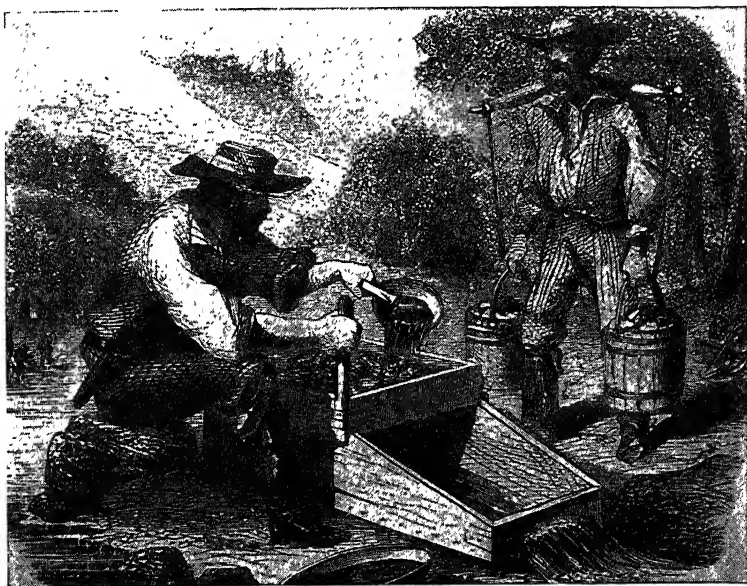
Many ships sailed into San Francisco Bay. When the sailors heard about the gold mines, many of them ran away from the ships. They went to hunt gold. There was no one left to sail the ships. Many ships lay in the harbor of San Francisco. Soon the bay was crowded with deserted ships.

The gold seekers did not stay very long in San Francisco. They came up the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers to Sacramento and Stockton. Here they bought their tools and miners' supplies and went to the mining country in the mountains and along the rivers. Their tools were a pick, a shovel, and a pan. Bacon and beans were their chief food.

#### DIFFERENT WAYS OF MINING

At first, mining was easy. The miners found gold everywhere along the streams. They used the pan to wash the dirt and gravel from the gold. Some men found a lot of gold in a short time. One man found

fifteen hundred dollars worth in less than two weeks. Another found two pounds and a half in less than an hour. Some men found thousands of dollars worth. Nine men working together took fifty-four thousand dollars from one mine. Miners found gold in the rocks. They began digging in the cracks. Some miners dug out gold with their pocketknives.



CRADLE ROCKING ON THE STANISLAUS

*Courtesy of California State Library*

Later, the miners made cradles for their work along the streams. A cradle was a wooden box closed at one end and put on rockers. It was sometimes called a rocker. Inside was a smaller box with an iron bottom. In this iron bottom were many holes. The gravel and dirt were shoveled into the box. Water was poured over the dirt. One man rocked the cradle back and forth. The water washed away

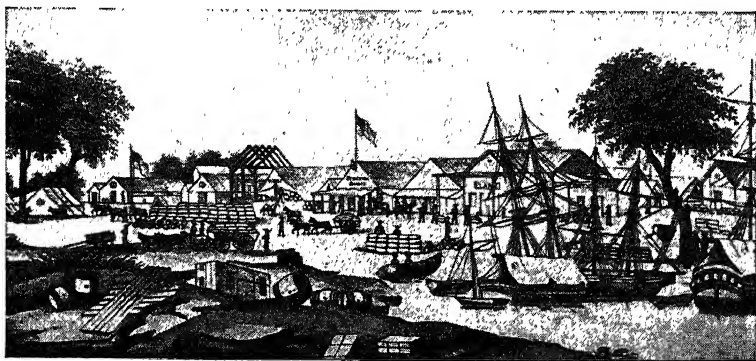
the dirt. The big rocks and gravel stayed in the small box. The loose gold fell through the holes into the lower wooden box.

The mines along the rivers were called "wet diggings." As the miners went back into the hills, they found little water for mining. Those mines were called "dry diggings."

To travel to the mines the men had to walk or go horseback or muleback. There were no railroads in California then. There were no wagon roads at first. Later, roads had to be made for the heavy freight wagons and stagecoaches. But they were very rough, dusty roads.

### MINING CAMPS

Many mining camps sprang up quickly. Men lived in tents or rough cabins. Each camp had a name. We do not hear some of these names any more. Some of the names have been changed. In some places, only a few ruins are left to remind us of a busy mining camp of the days of forty-nine. A few of the towns still have the same name as the old camp. These



STOCKTON IN 1849

*Courtesy of California State Library*

names are very interesting. You can tell from the name what sort of a place it must have been.

Placerville was once called Hangtown. Many men were hanged there from a big tree. These men were robbers, stealing from the men in camps. Often, they killed the miners to get their gold.

Jackson was named Bottle Springs at first. The first settlers at one place threw away so many bottles that they decided Bottle Springs would be a good name for their camp. This is now the town of Jackson. Here are some names of old mining camps. Can you guess why these names were given?

|                |                      |          |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| Dutch Flat     | Spanish Dry Diggings | You Bet  |
| Georgia Slide  | Rattlesnake Bar      | Red Dog  |
| Poverty Bar    | Shirt Tail Canyon    | Mad Mule |
| Squirrel Creek | Murderer's Bar       | Gold Run |
| Yankee Jim's   | Salt Pork Ridge      | Red Eye  |
| Fiddletown     | Diamond Springs      | Humbug   |

#### HIGH PRICES IN THE GOLD RUSH DAYS

Everything cost a lot of money in those days. There were few stores in California. All food and clothing and tools had to be brought on ships from far away. That made prices very high.

Here are a few prices from those times.

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Dried Beans, a pound ..... | \$ 1.00         |
| Potatoes, a pound .....    | 1.00            |
| Milk, a bottle .....       | 1.00            |
| Sardines, a can .....      | 4.00            |
| Roast Duck .....           | 5.00            |
| Candles, each .....        | .50             |
| Shovels, each .....        | \$5.00 to 15.00 |
| Boots, a pair .....        | 18.00           |

To travel from San Francisco to Sacramento on the river boat cost \$25.

But the miners had plenty of gold. Some of the

gold was in lumps called nuggets. Some was in gold dust. Gold dust was carried in small leather bags. The miners paid for what they bought with a pinch of gold dust. A pinch of gold dust was worth a dollar.

One little boy whose father was a miner said, "We haven't any money." Then he was ashamed. He thought his friends would think he was poor. He said, "I mean we haven't any flat money."

### TROUBLE IN THE CAMPS

The miners had to carry their gold around with them or hide it in their cabins. There was no place to keep the gold safe. There were men who came to California to steal gold. Sometimes, they robbed the cabins when the miners were gone. Sometimes, they killed a man to get his gold. This made much trouble in the camps.

Many years after 1849 a man living in the Sierra



CALIFORNIA CABIN IN THE MINES  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

Nevada Mountains was digging in his yard. He found a neat pile of old red rocks. Hidden among the rocks was sixty dollars in gold. These rocks had once been the fireplace in a miner's cabin. The cabin had been burned long ago, but the gold was left hidden in the old rough fireplace.

The gold rush days were rough days. Many bandits went about the country robbing everybody they could. They robbed men at work in the mines. They held up stagecoaches. The stagecoaches carried gold from the mines down to the towns. The stage robbers knew when the gold was to be carried on the coach. They would wait for the coach to come rumbling down the road. They would step out from behind bushes or rocks and stop the coach. They would force the driver to give them the express box filled with gold.

One of the stagecoach robbers was Black Bart. He robbed twenty-eight different stages. He seemed to know when gold was being carried. He never shot anyone when he held up a stage. He told people afterwards that he was afraid of guns and used an unloaded pistol. But the drivers of the coaches did not know that. So they always stopped when they saw him. Finally, he was caught and put in jail.

Gangs of robbers traveled about California together. People were very much afraid of them. One of the most famous gangs was led by Joaquin Murrieta. Murrieta was greatly feared. His band of robbers did much killing and robbing in many different parts of California. He hated Americans and tried to kill as many as he could. Many men were trying to catch him. But no one knew what he looked like. He wore a different kind of suit every time. That made him hard to find. But at last he was cap-

tured and shot. Everyone was relieved to know he could do no more harm.

### TROUBLE IN THE TOWNS

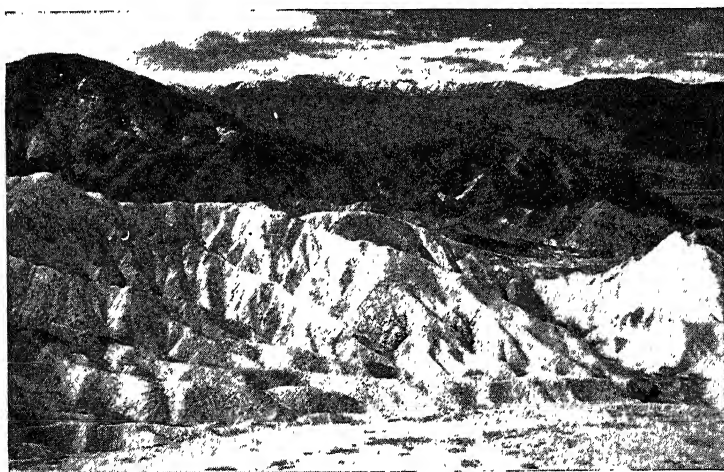
Many wicked men came to California. They came to get gold from the men who mined for it. These men caused much trouble for the good citizens. They paid no attention to the laws. They made the towns very unsafe places to live in.

The good, honest citizens joined together into committees to punish the wicked men. In the end the good citizens had charge of the towns and made them safe.

## Traveling through Death Valley

Another party of emigrants had a sad time getting to California. This party tried to travel southward across the desert into California instead of going over the mountains. This was a large party, but most of them did not live to reach California.

The emigrants always grew tired of the long, hard trip across the plains. They often wished for a shorter way. This party heard of a short cut and decided to take it. This short cut was only a trail. Very soon they were lost. They came to a range of mountains but could find no way to cross. Most of the emigrants decided to go back to the first trail.



DEATH VALLEY

*Courtesy of California Highways and Public Works*

Twenty-seven wagons were left to find the way on the short cut.

The men of the party thought they should go directly west and cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains. But they wandered in the desert toward the south. In the desert they crossed the Panamint Mountains with much trouble. No party had ever tried to cross this way before. Ahead of them lay another desert. This desert was Death Valley.

Death Valley is about one hundred miles long and thirty miles wide. The land is very low. There is no grass. There are no springs of fresh, cool water. There are no trees for shade.

These emigrants were very weary of crossing deserts. But here was another. Mile after mile they moved over the hard, hot sand. The children cried for water. But there was no water. The oxen could not pull the heavy wagons through the sand. There was no wood for campfires. The emigrants had to burn some of the wagons to make their campfires at night.

Weeks went by. Still the emigrants were moving slowly over the hot sand and rocks of this dreadful place. The food gave out. The oxen were killed and eaten. But they were so poor and thin that they did not make much food for the hungry emigrants.

At last, the party could travel no farther. The few oxen still alive could not walk. The men, women, and children were worn and sick. They made a little camp near a small spring someone had found. Here they would have to stay.

The two strongest young men in the party were sent ahead. These men were William Lewis Manly and John Rogers. They hoped to find a settlement where they could buy food. Because they were young and strong they hoped to be able to travel until they found some way to get out of this desert.

These two young men wandered on, day after day. There was no water. Their mouths were dry. Their tongues were thick. Still, they kept stumbling on. The thought of the helpless women and children left behind them gave them strength to force themselves on and on.

They had hoped to find a settlement and get back with food to the others in ten days. But a week passed, and they were still in the desert. On the seventh day they found a small brook of clear water. They lay down beside the brook and took a long drink. Not for many weary months had they had enough water to drink.

Soon after this, they came to a valley with trees and cool, green grass. How glad they were to see trees and grass again! How happy they were to hear birds singing! They had been traveling in hot desert country very long.

They met a man who showed them the trail to the San Fernando Mission. Here they bought food to take back with them. They bought dry beans, wheat, dried meat, and flour. They bought saddles and ropes. They bought two horses and a mule. The horses were for the two women and four little children to ride. The mule was to be used as a pack animal.

Manly and Rogers started back to find the waiting party. They had little hope that those left in the desert valley would still be alive. They might have died of hunger or thirst. Indians might have come and killed them. There did not seem much chance that they would live. But the two young men had promised to come back. Even if it meant they might die on the way themselves, they started bravely on their way.

They reached the desert of Mojave. Over the hot

sand under the scorching sun they moved on day by day. The horses were soon so weary and worn they could go no farther. They had to leave the poor horses to die. The saddles they left under some rocks. If they lived and came back this way, they would get them. But the horses would have to die here in the hot desert. The little mule was able to go on with her heavy load.

They reached the mountains on the edge of Death Valley. They thought it would save time to climb over instead of going around. This was very difficult to do. There was no path. They had to climb over sliding rocks and steep, slippery slopes.

The little mule kept going bravely on. Sometimes, the men thought she would not be able to walk on the narrow rocky path they made. They led her carefully step by step, holding her with a long rope. She walked slowly and carefully like a cat.

They reached the very narrowest place. Here the men had to crawl on their hands and knees. The mule smelled the rocks. She took one careful step after another. When she was halfway across, she made a quick jump and landed safely on a smooth rock. They all climbed on to the top of the cliff and went down on the other side.

They were back in Death Valley. They walked on toward the camp they had left. One man was lying dead in the sand. There was no sound of voices. What would they find? Manly fired his gun. A thin, starving man crawled out from beneath a wagon. He called to the others. They came hurrying to meet their rescuers. They had given up all hopes of seeing the two young men again. They had been gone nearly a month.

The hungry emigrants ate some of the food. Then

they prepared to leave Death Valley. There were no horses to ride. The two women, Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Arcane, each had to ride on an ox. The four children all rode on another. A saddle cover of men's shirts was made. They were sewed together to make two pockets. In these big pockets the smallest children had to ride.

Manly and Rogers guided them as they started on again. They reached the cliff where the mule had jumped. Here there was great difficulty to get down. First, they lowered the bundles with ropes. The children were lowered in the same way. All the ropes were tied together to make a rope long enough to lower the oxen. Three men pushed the oxen from behind. One man stood down below with a rope to keep the oxen from falling on their necks. All four oxen were lowered in this slow, dangerous way. But none were hurt.

The little mule jumped down. The men and women climbed down the narrow path on the rocky wall. Now, they were out of Death Valley. This was February 1, 1850. As they were leaving, Mr. Manly waved his hand and said, "Good-by, Death Valley." This is how the valley got its name.

In another month they had crossed the Mojave Desert. They turned south to the San Fernando Mission. Here they rested from their long suffering and hardships. They had taken four months trying to reach California by the short cut.

When they were rested enough to go on, they separated and went to different parts of California to make their homes.

## California Becomes a State

The war between the United States and Mexico ended in 1848. California belonged to the United States now. The people could not go on longer under the old Mexican laws. They had to have some new ones to govern themselves as Americans.

There was much trouble in California for a few years while the people were changing government. Many men tried to take land that belonged to other men. They said the land given by the Mexican Government to the first settlers did not belong to anyone. They said anyone who settled on the land should be able to have it. Such settlers were called "squatters." They moved onto the land and kept it. John Sutter lost most of his land this way.

It was very necessary to have American laws for California. There must be a governor and lawmakers and judges. The people would know what they could do. They would know what they could not do. The question about who owned the land could be settled.

In September, 1849, a convention of noted California men met in Monterey. A convention is a gathering of people to do some certain thing. The work of this convention was to make a constitution for California.

There were forty-eight men in this convention. John Sutter was one. General Vallejo was another. The wisest and most famous in California had come to help in this great work.

They met in Colton Hall. Colton Hall is a large stone building still standing in Monterey. It was built by Walter Colton. Mr. Colton was the *alcalde* of Monterey. *Alcalde* is the Spanish word for judge. He was really the mayor. He was a good, strong mayor. He helped the people to keep the laws. He punished the ones who broke the old Mexican laws. He made them work cutting stones from the hills. With this stone, Colton Hall was built. In it was held one of the first schools in California. In this same hall, the first convention was held.

The men at the convention made a set of laws. They decided San Jose was to be the capital instead of Monterey. They set a day in November for Election Day. That day the people of California would elect the governor and other officers of the government.

Peter Burnett was elected the first American Governor of California. Two men were elected Senators from California. These men were John C. Frémont and Dr. William M. Gwin. These Senators were to go to the city of Washington. Here they would appear before the Congress of the United States. They would ask for California to be made a state. With them they took a copy of the constitution made for California.

Many months went by. Out in faraway California, the people waited anxiously to hear. Every time a ship sailed into San Francisco Bay, they hoped for good news. But they had to wait many, many months. They had to wait for more than half a year.

Congress had decided on September 9, 1850, that California should be a state. That day is California's birthday. We call it Admission Day. Admission means entering. On that day, California became one

of the states of the United States. A star was put on the American flag for California. It was the thirty-first star.

But the news did not reach California until October. There were no telephones or telegraphs or radios in those days to carry news quickly. People had to wait many weeks or many months to hear what had happened in other parts of the world.

In San Francisco, there is a hill called Telegraph Hill. Here men used to go to look far out to sea for ships coming. One day in October, the lookout on Telegraph Hill called out, "A ship is coming with all her flags flying."

As the ship, the *Oregon*, sailed into the harbor, her guns began to boom. Everyone on shore was excited to hear this. They knew the ship must be bringing important news. They rushed down to the wharf, ringing bells, shooting off pistols, and clapping their hands.

The ship did bring the news they wanted to hear. California had been admitted to the Union — the United States of America.

Everyone went wild with joy. There was no work done all the rest of the day. At night, big bonfires were built to blaze in different parts of the city.

Messengers sprang onto their horses to carry the good news to other cities and towns.

The Governor, Peter Burnett, was in San Francisco that day. The next day he left for San Jose by stagecoach. How the six stage horses galloped over the road! It was a sandy road and rough for traveling. But the driver hurried the horses on and on. In every town, people ran out of their houses to see why the stagecoach was making so much noise. The men on the stage would wave their hats and call out in

loud voices, "California has been made a state! California has been made a state! California has been admitted to the Union!"

### CALIFORNIA'S CAPITALS

San Jose was chosen to be the capital city of California. But the people were not satisfied to have it there. San Jose was not a very large town. There were not enough hotels for the men who had to go there on government business. Many towns and cities wanted to be the capital.

General Vallejo offered to give land for a new city to be the capital city. In 1851 the capital was changed to the town of Vallejo. It was not a very large place. The lawmakers had to meet in a small wooden building. They soon decided they wanted to move.

The capital was next located in Sacramento. Here the courthouse was used for a capitol building. The citizens of Sacramento were very happy about it. They gave a great ball in honor of the new capital city. There was a flood that year in March. The city was surrounded by water. Many people thought Sacramento was not the right place for the capital.

Several towns again asked to be named as the capital city. It was decided to move the capital to the town of Benicia. All the books and records of government were moved to Benicia in 1853. Here there was a good brick building. Because the brick building was not large enough for all the state offices, the books of the State Library and the government records were kept in a wooden building. They were not safe from fire.

In 1854 the capital was again moved to Sacramento. Plans were made to build a large building. The citizens of Sacramento gave the land. In 1860

the work of building began. There were floods for the next few years, and the work of building did not go on very fast. Several times it was thought the capital might be changed again.

In 1869 the fine large building was first used. It was not really finished even then. Several years passed before it was finished.

A large park has been planted to flowers and shrubs and trees around the capitol building. It is one of the finest parks in the country. Trees from all countries are planted there.

In later years other buildings have been built around or near Capitol Park. One is the State Library and Courts Building. Opposite it is State Office Building No. 1. South of the park are the Public Works Building, Motor Vehicles Building, State Office Building No. 2 for the Department of Employment, the State Printing Plant, and State Office Building No. 3 which is called the Business and Professions Building.

In San Francisco and Los Angeles there are other State buildings. It takes a great many buildings for the offices of government of a large state.

## Stagecoach and Pony Express



California was a long way from the rest of the United States. There was no railroad to carry people and freight and mail to California. No one could travel overland in winter. For many years the mail was brought to California by ships. This took many, many months. Sometimes, a letter from New York to Los Angeles was seven or eight months on the way.

The men in California wanted to get letters from their families. They wanted to write home about their life in California. They did not like to wait so long.

### MAIL DAY

Mail day was a very important day. As soon as a ship arrived in San Francisco, men hurried to the post office. They stood in long lines waiting in front of the window. Some of them would pay as much as ten dollars to get a place nearer the front.

In the mining camps there were no post offices at first. Mail was sent by the express company that carried the gold to the city. One express company charged \$2.50 to take a letter from the mining camp to San Francisco.

### OVERLAND MAIL

Men formed companies to carry mail over the trails of California. This mail was carried in stagecoaches.



SAN FRANCISCO POST OFFICE IN 1849

*Courtesy of M. H. de Young Museum and Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*



OVERLAND STAGE LEAVES FOR THE WEST

*Courtesy of Pictorial History of California, University of California, Extension Division*

These coaches carried three big sacks of letters and one bag of newspapers. Four or six horses were used for each coach. The coaches traveled day and night. They stopped only to change horses at the different stations.

The coaches were supposed to make the trip from St. Louis to San Francisco in twenty-five days. It was a rough, dangerous trip. The roads were rough, dirt roads, full of rocks and holes. Sometimes, a few passengers traveled on these stagecoaches. They always had a bumpy ride. When they reached California they were tired and stiff and sore.

The stage service that carried the mail was called the overland mail.

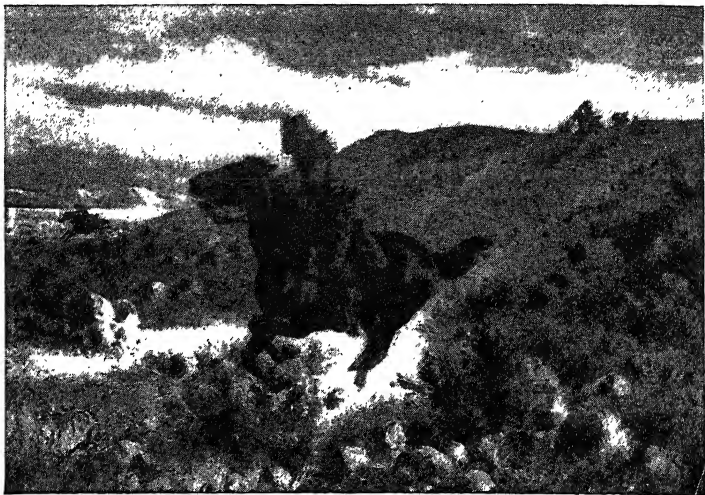
#### THE BUTTERFIELD COMPANY

The most famous stage company was the Butterfield company. This company built a hundred coaches. It bought a thousand horses and five hundred mules. Stations were built about ten miles apart. Extra horses and mules were kept at the stations. A guard of men were also at each station. The Indians were often unfriendly. They stole horses whenever they could. It was dangerous for the stages to travel through the Indian country. These guards traveled along on horseback to help protect the coach.

The Butterfield company stages carried the mail across the southern desert country into California. This was the longest way, but it could be used all year.

#### THE PONY EXPRESS

Another way was found to carry the mail to and from California. That was by the Pony Express.



PONY EXPRESS

*Courtesy of California State Library*

A relay of men on swift-running horses could cross the West in ten days. Many men and horses were used. The men had to be light in weight, good riders, and very brave. The horses had to be strong and swift.

The trip from St. Joseph, a town on the Missouri River, to Sacramento was two thousand miles. Over this trail through mountains and plains and deserts the men rode in all kinds of weather.

It took many men to carry the mail to the East. Many riders brought the mail to the West. The Pony Express service had enough riders and horses so that they could be changed often. The horses were usually changed every ten miles. Stations were built along the way. At the stations, horses were waiting. They were all saddled and ready to go. The rider dashed into the station. He jumped from his horse and onto the back of the waiting horse. The mail

was quickly changed from one horse to the other. Away dashed the rider again.

Special saddles were made to carry the mail in the Pony Express. A leather covering was made to fit over the saddle and hang down on each side. In this leather covering there were four pockets to hold the mail. This covering was called a *mochila*. The *mochila* could be easily lifted off and put over the saddle of the new horse.

The riders were expected to travel seventy-five or a hundred miles a day. Sometimes, they had to go much farther. A rider might be killed by the Indians. Some other rider would have to take his place.

A horse might stumble and fall running over the rough ground. If a horse broke his leg, he had to be shot. The rider carried the mail to the next station.

The letters in the mail had to be light in weight. Letters were written on the thinnest paper. Paper like onionskin was used. At first, it cost \$5.00 to send a letter by Pony Express. Later, the price was changed to \$1.50 for each letter.

The letters were wrapped in oilskin. This was to keep them from getting wet. Many times the Pony Express rider had to dash through rivers. There were no bridges over the rivers in the Western wilderness.

#### THE PONY EXPRESS TRAIL

The Pony Express started to carry the mail on April 3, 1860. Mail came from San Francisco on the river boat to Sacramento. The first rider left Sacramento and rode fifty-five miles to Placerville. He changed his horses twice.

At Placerville another rider was waiting. He took the mail and started over the mountains. The snow

was still deep. In some places there was thirty feet of snow. This was the most difficult part of the trip in California.

So the mail passed from rider to rider. Away each went as fast as his horse could gallop. Over mountain and desert, over river and plain, they rushed on and on. Ten days later the last rider rode into St. Joseph with the mail from California. The men and horses had covered two thousand miles of wild and dangerous country in ten days' time.

The first mail to come to California started from St. Joseph on April 3. That mail reached Sacramento on April 13. There was a lot of excitement in Sacramento that day. Crowds of people were at the Pony Express station to meet the rider. This station was on Second Street between J Street and K Street.

The afternoon boat for San Francisco was waiting. The rider with his horse and mail went on board. The boat went down the river. It reached San Francisco at one o'clock in the morning. The whole city was down at the wharf to meet the Pony Express. They had brass bands and torches. The people formed a procession and marched up the main street with the rider to the post office.

The Pony Express made two trips west each week and two trips east. About two hundred letters were carried on each trip.

#### ADVENTURES OF SOME PONY EXPRESS RIDERS

One Pony Express rider was once chased many miles by some hungry wolves. He put poison on the body of a dead buffalo lying on the plain. Next time he passed by, he saw twelve wolves lying dead beside the buffalo.

This same rider was riding through the darkness

one night. His horse stepped in a hole and threw him off. He pulled the *mochila* with him as he fell. He could not find his horse in the darkness. So he started to walk, carrying the mail. It was fifteen miles to the next station. The stagecoach had passed him a few minutes before. The rider began to run, calling out to the driver. The driver was not going very fast in the dark night. He heard the rider calling. He stopped and gave him a ride to the next station.

One of the Pony Express riders was Buffalo Bill. He began riding when he was very young. He rode through a very dangerous part of the wilderness. There were high mountains and swift rivers to cross on his part of the trail. One winding river had to be crossed three times. The water, coming from the snow, was as cold as ice water. There was always danger of the horse getting caught in a whirlpool and drowning his rider.

In his section, there were many unfriendly Indians. These Indians often killed the men at the stations and stole the horses. There were bandits, too, who held up the Express riders to rob the mail. These bandits were called "road agents."

— Buffalo Bill heard some road agents were waiting ahead for him. The mail he was to carry had money in the letters. He hid the real mail under the saddle blanket. He took a dummy *mochila* and stuffed the pockets with papers.

After he had been riding a few miles, two road agents stepped out from the bushes and stopped him. They told him they wanted the mail. They said, "We know what you are carrying. Hand it over or we will shoot."

Buffalo Bill refused. He told them they would get into trouble if they stopped the mail. But they

pointed their guns at him and told him to hand it over quickly. He loosened the dummy *mochila* slowly and carefully. He tried to make them think he did not want to give up the mail. Suddenly, he threw the *mochila* right at the head of one man. He drew his pistol and shot the other. He dug his spurs into the horse and rode over the man, stooping to pick up the *mochila*. He rode so fast over the plains he reached the next station ahead of time.

Another famous rider was "Pony Bob." He had an exciting ride once when the Indians were giving much trouble. He came to a station to change his horse. The Indians had taken all the horses. He had to go on with the same tired horse. When it was time to change riders, the man whose turn it was said he would not go. "Pony Bob" had to keep on riding. For thirty-five miles, he rode through the sand-hill country where there was not a drop of water. He changed horses and went on. He had to ride 185 miles before he had a chance to rest.

He rested nine hours at one station. Then the west-bound mail came. "Pony Bob" had to start west with it. When he reached the first station, he found the Indians had been there. The station master had been killed. All the horses had been driven away. He found some water for his horse. Away they dashed into the dark night. Wolves and other wild animals howled. It was not a pleasant feeling to go riding on in the darkness. But no Indians bothered him. There was no rider to make the change with him. He kept on and on. When he reached his own starting station again, he had ridden 380 miles.

The men who kept the stations for the Pony Express had much trouble. The Indians often came to the stations to steal the horses. Many station masters

were killed. The stations were usually built of stone. Some of them had portholes in the walls. Some were large enough to keep the horses inside the walls. The station masters did this if they thought the Indians were on the warpath. These men had many exciting adventures.

#### THE ENDING OF THE PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express was used only a year. A telegraph line was built across the country to California. News could be sent much faster by telegraph. The stagecoaches kept on carrying the mail. The days of the Pony Express were over.

But we still like to read and tell tales about the brave men who carried the mail in storm and sunshine, over desert and mountains.



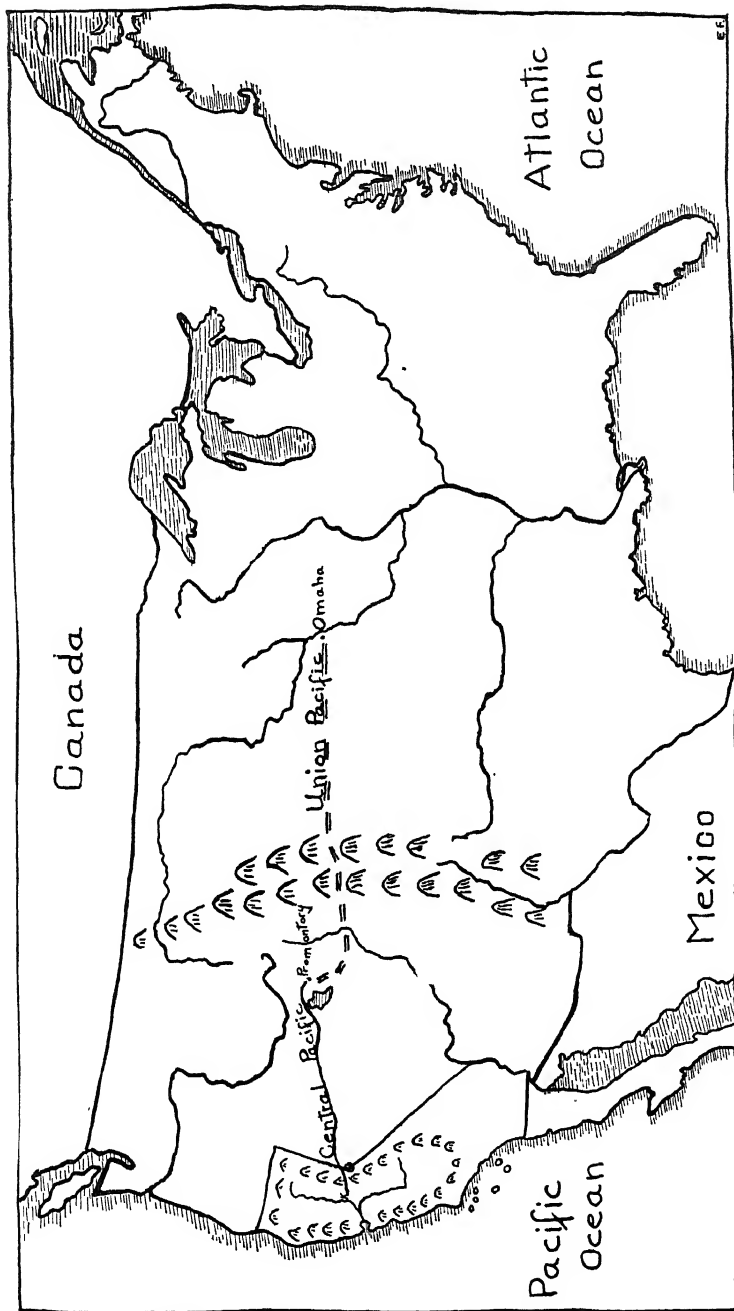
## The Railroad Is Built

The people in California wanted a faster and better way to travel. There were railroads in other parts of the United States. The people in California began to hope for a railroad to be built across the country to California. Many men said it could not be done. They said it was impossible to build a railroad over the deserts and high mountains.

There was one man who said it could be done. He was Theodore Judah. He had planned and built a short railroad from Sacramento to Folsom. That was the first railroad in California.

Theodore Judah dreamed and planned about a railroad to cross the plains and deserts and mountains to California. Dozens of times he went up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains to try to find a place where the high mountains could be crossed. He went many times when the snow was fifteen or twenty feet deep. Many men told him a railroad could not be built because of the heavy snow. Yet he felt it could be done.

He talked to men in California about it. They all agreed a railroad would be wonderful. It takes a great amount of money to build a railroad. No one had enough money. Judah was so determined to build the railroad that he kept on talking and planning until he found four men in Sacramento who were willing to help with their money.



BUILDING A RAILROAD TO CALIFORNIA

## THE BIG FOUR

These men were later called the Big Four. One of these men was Leland Stanford, who kept a grocery store. Two of the other men had a store where they sold hardware and supplies to the miners. They were Mark Hopkins and Collis P. Huntington. The other man was Charles Crocker. He kept a store where he sold clothes and shoes and blankets.

The goods these men sold in their stores had to come all the way to San Francisco by ship and then up the river to Sacramento. It took many months for freight to come by ship. They knew a railroad would help them all in business. Freight could be brought much faster by train. Settlers could come in a much easier way than by the covered wagons. A railroad would help California to grow.

These men formed a company. They called it the Central Pacific Railroad Company. The government of the United States granted this company many thousands of acres of land. The government helped with money. The cities and counties of California subscribed millions of dollars to the company. Everyone knew what a wonderful help a railroad would be.

Each man of the Big Four had charge of a different part of the work.

## COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON

Mr. Huntington spent most of his time in the East getting money for the railroad. He had to buy the supplies, too, and ship them to California. All the rails, all the engines, all the coaches, all the spikes and powder and shovels and flatcars had to be sent to California on ships. Once he had many tons of rails

to send. He could get only twenty-three ships. That was not enough to carry all the rails.

### LELAND STANFORD AND MARK HOPKINS

Stanford and Hopkins stayed in California. Their work was to get money from the cities and counties to help pay for building the railroad. They had charge of the business arrangements. While the work of building the railroad was going on, Stanford became Governor of California.

### CHARLES CROCKER

Charles Crocker had charge of building the railroad. He went right along with the workers as they laid the ties and rails. When he could not get enough men here to do the work, he sent to China for men. Thousands of Chinese came across the Pacific to work on the railroad. Mr. Crocker put thousands of men to work cutting down trees. These trees were made into ties for the railroad.

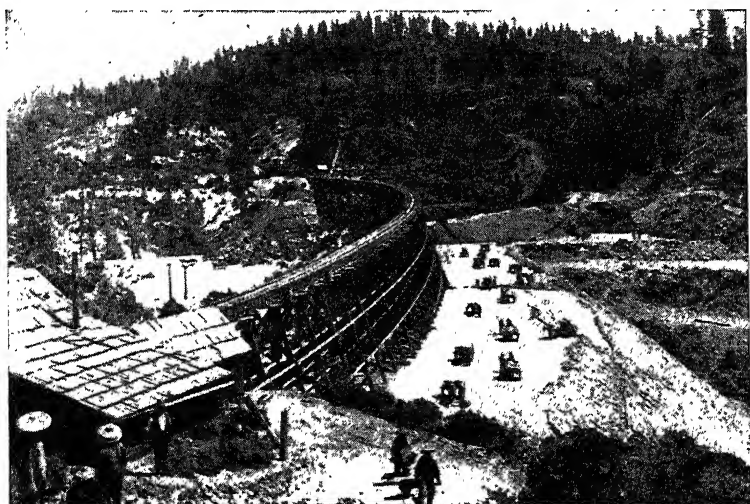
### BUILDING THE RAILROAD

The railroad was to be 1,797 miles long. It was too much for one company to build. Another company was formed, called the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The Union Pacific was to build westward from the city of Omaha. The Central Pacific was to begin building at Sacramento and build toward the east. When the two railroads met, the work would be finished. Each company wanted to build the greatest number of miles. For every mile of track built, the government would give them thousands of dollars.

The Central Pacific began work on January 8, 1863. That day at Sacramento, Leland Stanford

started the work by digging the first shovelful of dirt.

The Central Pacific built as far as the Sierra Nevada Mountains without much trouble. But now there was hard work ahead. To cross those high, snow-covered mountains would take a long time. The winter storms were heavy. The snow fell so fast and so thick that it took many men to keep the ground cleared so the digging could go on. When the snow was too heavy to shovel away, they built tunnels under it. Then the men had to work under the snow.



TRESTLE IN HIGH SIERRA  
*Courtesy of Southern Pacific Company*

There was always danger of snowslides. Many men were killed in this way.

In those days the railroad men did not have any of the machinery that we can now use. The men in charge had a hard time getting the tunnels built.

Fifteen tunnels had to be dug through the mountainsides. Many miles of snowsheds had to be built to keep the tracks from being covered with snow.

All the supplies for the railroad and the food for the men had to be hauled up the mountainside on sleds. There was no other way to carry freight. There was trouble getting enough men to work. Most men would rather work in the mines than on the railroad. That was one reason that Mr. Crocker had to send all the way to China for workers.

The rails, cars, and engines were all made in the East. It cost thousands of dollars to pay the freight on the ships that brought them to California. The cars and engines were built first. Then they were taken to pieces. The pieces were sent by ship to San Francisco. Up the river to Sacramento, these pieces were brought. In Sacramento, they were put together again and taken up to the mountains.

Theodore Judah was the chief engineer and made all the plans for the work. He decided the best way was to follow the old trail of the covered wagons over the mountains. That took the railroad from Sacramento through Auburn and Colfax and past Donner Lake. Soon after the work began, Theodore Judah died. But his dreams and plans were carried on by the others.

After the Central Pacific had built its line over the Sierra Nevada, there was the great desert still to be crossed. Here there was little or no water. All water had to be hauled for miles and miles. There were no trees here, either. For five hundred miles, there were no trees that would make a board to burn. So, all wood for ties, for cabins, for firewood had to be hauled from California over the mountains.

## THE RACE BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES

The Union Pacific Company could build faster than the Central Pacific. For hundreds of miles the Union Pacific had flat, level country to cross. There was difficulty getting lumber. But the Central Pacific had much more trouble building over the mountains and the desert. The Union Pacific built the greater number of miles.

The men in each company worked as fast as they could. There was a race between them to see which company could lay the most miles of road in a day. One day there was great rejoicing in the camps of the Central Pacific. That day they had laid more than ten miles of track. That was the biggest day's work that had ever been done in building a railroad.

For six years the work went on. The two companies were building nearer and nearer to each other. The two railroads met at the little town of Promontory in the state of Utah on May 10, 1869.



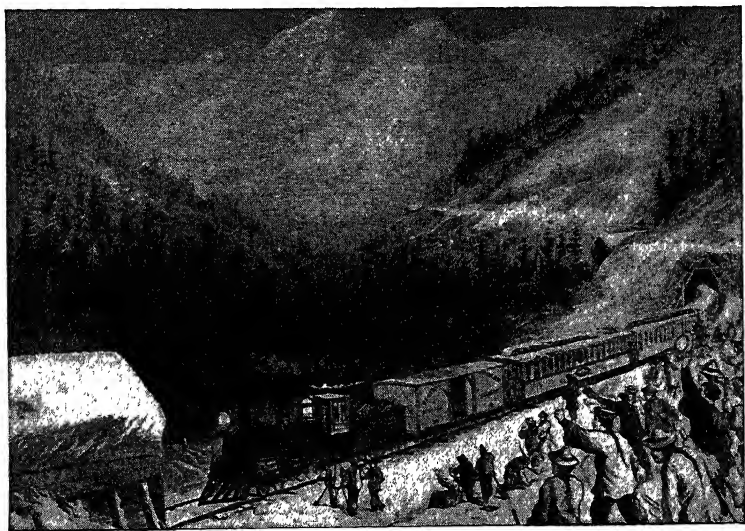
DRIVING THE LAST SPIKE  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

## THE GOLDEN SPIKE

It was a great day in the history of California and the rest of the United States when the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads met. There an engine from the east and an engine from the west stood on the tracks facing each other. The railroad to California was finished.

Six hundred people came to the little town in Utah to see the last spike driven. This spike was a golden spike from California. Leland Stanford for the Central Pacific and Dr. Durant for the Union Pacific drove this spike in with a silver sledge hammer.

Every time the silver sledge hammer struck the golden spike, the telegraph wires in the little town sent the message to San Francisco and the large cities of the East. In San Francisco blows were struck on a bell. The people of San Francisco knew



ACROSS THE CONTINENT  
*Courtesy of California State Library*

just how the work was being finished way out in Utah.

In San Francisco and in Sacramento everyone was wild with joy. All the whistles and bells clanged! There were parades and speeches. All California was happy that day.

In other American cities, too, there was great excitement. The Pacific Railroad was finished. Now freight and mail and passengers could be carried to California in a few days. Never again would California be a faraway land.

## California Today

The building of the railroad made a great change in California. It brought California much nearer to the rest of the world. It was very easy to travel westward by railroad. Many more people came to make their homes in California. They found that California was a great treasure house of many riches.

Another railroad was built to the West. This one went to the southern part of the state. Many settlers went there to make their homes. The towns of San Diego and Los Angeles began to grow. They had been sleepy little settlements for a long time. The gold rush days had not brought so many settlers to the southern counties as they had to the north. But now many people chose to live in the south.

These people did not come to mine for gold like the forty-niners. Many of them came to farm. They found the soil was rich and fertile. They planted their land to grain and fruit.

### FRUIT

Fruit proved to be a rich crop for California farmers. The long sunny months and the good soil made California a fine land for fruit raising. California fruit is shipped to all parts of the world.

Oranges and lemons grow especially well in southern California. Two little seedless orange trees from South America were planted in the town of Riverside.

They grew so well that many cuttings from them were planted. Now there are thousands of acres of orange groves. Fruits have become another golden crop for California.

### OIL

Another treasure came from the soil of California. This crop was thick and black and greasy. But it was a very rich crop. In the south and in the San Joaquin Valley, oil was found. Even on the beaches along the Pacific Ocean, there was oil under the sand. This crop of oil brought many workers to the oil fields. It brought prosperity to the state.

### CHANGING THE DESERTS TO GARDENS

The deserts of California, too, were rich. Settlers came to California who understood how to farm desert land. Ditches were dug to carry water to the fields. Dams were built to hold back the water so it could be used when it was needed. When water was taken to the desert soil, the deserts began to bloom with gardens and fields.

Part of the Colorado Desert has been changed into a fertile valley. This is called Imperial Valley. It is one of the richest farming sections of the state. Here are California's biggest winter gardens. Melons, lettuce, tomatoes, and berries are shipped by carloads from the Imperial Valley.

Captain Anza led his band of settlers over this desert land. Jedediah Smith and his trappers ran for their lives from the unfriendly Indians through the sand hills of the Colorado Desert. Those men of long ago were brave and daring to try to cross the dreary deserts. The men of a later day were just as brave

and daring to try the great task of changing a desert into a garden. They have helped to give California another golden crop from the soil.

### BEAUTY SPOTS OF CALIFORNIA

Another golden treasure of California is the beautiful scenery. California is a large state, and in it there is almost every kind of scenery.

In the north there is Lassen Peak, a volcano. There is snow-capped Mt. Shasta. High in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is the shining blue water of Lake Tahoe, the Lake in the Sky.

There is the beautiful valley of Yosemite. This is a mountain valley with dashing waterfalls, high gray granite cliffs, wide flowery meadows, and a clear, winding river.

Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the whole United States, is not many miles from Death Valley, the lowest land.

The biggest trees in the world grow in the mountains of California. These are the Sequoias, the oldest living things on the earth. People drive many miles to see them and to rest in their cool shade.

There are miles and miles of sandy white beaches. There are lakes and river canyons. There are geysers and lava beds.

Travelers from many lands come to see these beauty spots of California. East and west, north and south they travel through the valleys and mountains. They find that California is rich in her beautiful scenery. They find that the land is as pleasant as it is beautiful. The sunny days and the pleasant land please the travelers. Many of them come back again. Many of them come to stay.

## HIGHWAYS

Once the patient mission fathers walked slowly over the dusty miles of *El Camino Real*. The Spanish *carretas* jogged and creaked as they bumped along. The Americans came with their covered wagons and oxen. The stagecoaches rumbled over the rough mountain roads. Once traveling was difficult.

But now it is very easy to travel over the many fine highways in California. These smooth paved roads lead to all parts of the state. In a few hours, we can travel from mountain to valley, from the farms to the cities. These highways have been a great help in making California a fine farming state. Over these highways, the farm products are quickly carried to the markets of the cities and towns.

Large as California is, the highways have made it seem smaller. By making travel and trade easier and faster, the highways have brought all parts of the state closer together.

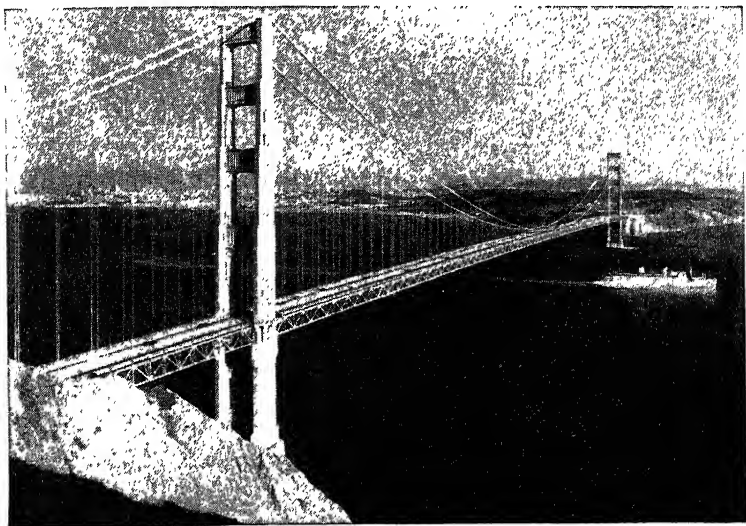
## BRIDGES

Two of the world's greatest bridges have been built as part of the highway system of the state. Both of these bridges are built across San Francisco Bay.

One bridge crosses the Golden Gate. The Golden Gate is the narrow entrance to the bay. Here the water is too deep for piers to be built down into it to hold up the floor of the bridge. Two towers more than seven hundred feet high have been built at each side where the rocky cliffs touch the water. These towers had to be very, very strong. The restless waves of the sea will dash against them forevermore. Great steel ropes called cables stretch from one tower to the other to make the bridge. It had to be built high

enough for ocean vessels to sail under it as they go in and out of the harbor.

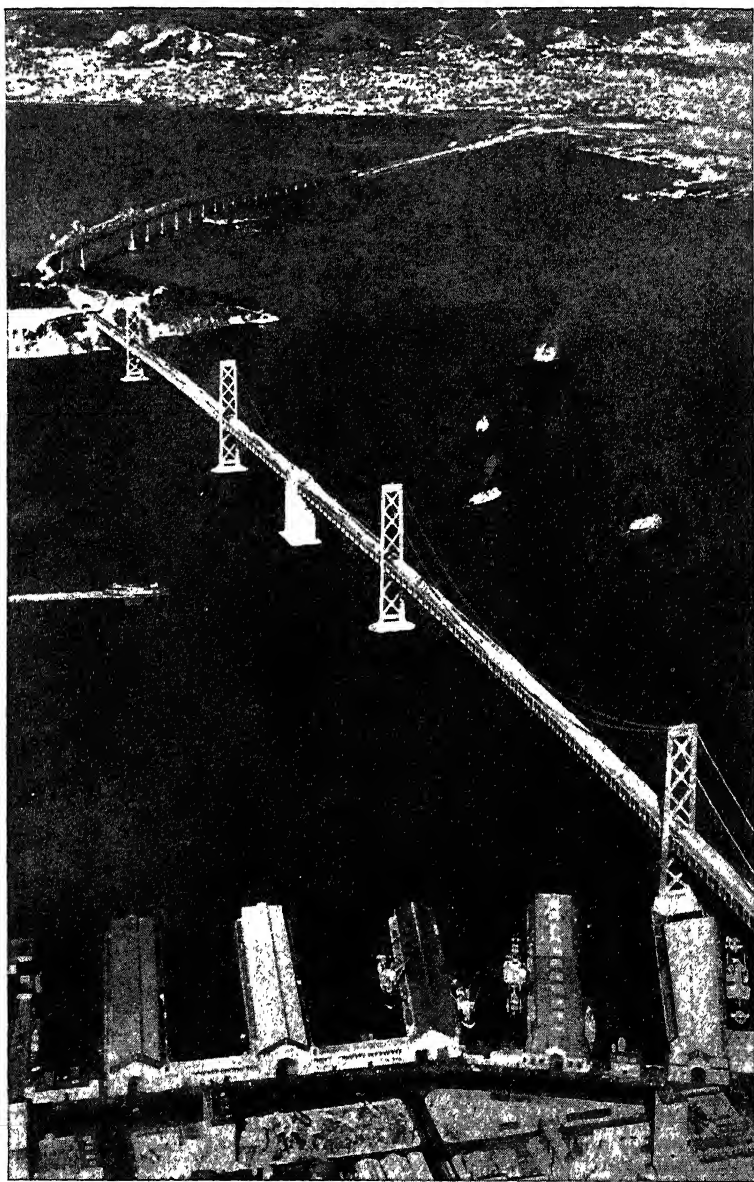
The Golden Gate Bridge will carry the traffic north and south along the coast of California. There are six lanes for automobiles and two sidewalks for the travelers who wish to walk across. On the towers, there are beacon lights for airplanes.



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

*Courtesy of Redwood Empire Association  
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The other bridge is built from San Francisco to the city of Oakland on the east side of the bay. This is really two bridges and a tunnel. One long bridge is built as far as the island of Yerba Buena. A tunnel was bored through the island. From the island another long bridge crosses over the water to Oakland. The bay bridge is a double-deck bridge. Automobiles travel swiftly over the top deck. Trains and trucks use the lower deck. People are able now to cross San



SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE

*Courtesy of Oakland Tribune*

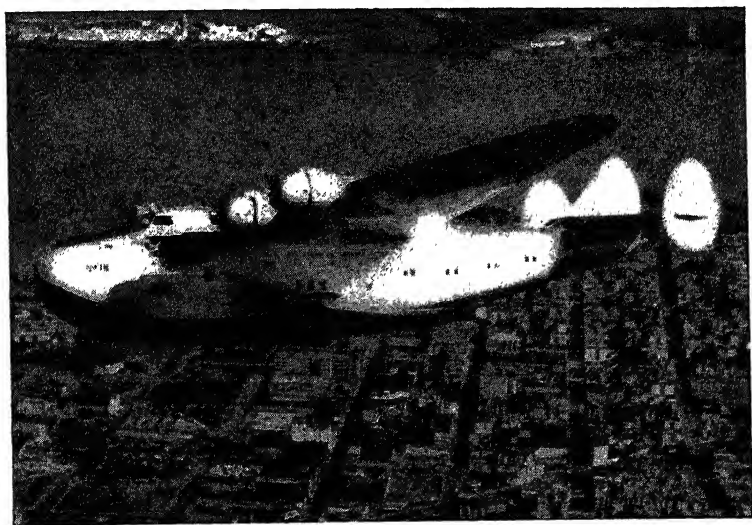
Francisco Bay much more quickly than in the old days.

### CLIPPER SHIPS

Once California seemed to be at the very edge of the world. Far toward the setting sun the wide Pacific rolled on for thousands and thousands of miles. California was as far west as most people wanted to go.

Now, wonderful big sea planes have been built to fly across the Pacific in a few days. These ships of the air are called clipper ships. They are named in honor of the famous clipper ships of the 1850's, the swiftest and most beautiful of sailing ships that raced from New York to California in the days of gold.

The *China Clipper* and the *Philippine Clipper* sail off into the clouds westward bound to China and the



A CLIPPER SHIP  
*Courtesy of Pan American Airways*

islands of Asia. In a few days the radio reports they have landed on the other side of the world. Then, in a very short time, we hear that they are back again.

How travel has changed since the days of Cabrillo and his slow, small sailing ships!

#### THE YEARS TO COME

This is as far as the story has gone. But it will go on and on. Men will live and plan and work to make California a pleasant and happy place. You, too, will have your part to do.

California as we know it today was made by those who have gone before us. Explorers and mission fathers, trappers and Spanish settlers, forty-niners and American emigrants, builders and farmers and workers, have all had their share. You enjoy life in the land they have made. You, in turn, will do your share to make and keep California, the golden happy land.

SPANISH NAMES  
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## Spanish Names

|                        |                                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Acapulco               | Ah-cah-pul'-ko                          |
| adobe                  | ah-do'-bay                              |
| Alameda                | Ah-lah-may'-dah                         |
| Alcalde                | Ahl-cahl'-day                           |
| Anza                   | Ahn-sah'                                |
| Arroyo                 | Ar-ro'-yo                               |
| Asís                   | Ah-sees'                                |
| Baja                   | Bah'-hah                                |
| Benicia                | Bay-nee'-the-ah                         |
| Borroméo               | Bor-oh-may'-oh                          |
| Cabrillo               | Cah-breel'-yo                           |
| Calafía                | Cal-ah-fee'-ah                          |
| Carmelo                | Cahr-may'-lo                            |
| carreta                | car'-ray'-tah                           |
| cascarón               | cas-kah-ro'-nay                         |
| Castro                 | Cahs'-tro                               |
| Chico                  | Chee'-co                                |
| Contra Costa           | Cohn'-trah Cos'-tah                     |
| corral                 | cor-rahl'                               |
| Crespí                 | Cres-pee'                               |
| del                    | del                                     |
| Dolores                | Do-lo'-rays                             |
| Don                    | Dohn                                    |
| El Camino Real         | El Cah-mee'-no Ray-ahl'                 |
| El Dorado              | El Do-rah'-do                           |
| fandango               | fahn-dahn'-go                           |
| Ferrelo                | Fare-ell'-o                             |
| fiesta                 | fee-ace'-tah                            |
| Fresno                 | Fres'-no                                |
| Gáspar                 | Gahs'-pahr                              |
| Gomez                  | Go'-meth                                |
| Joaquin                | Whah-keen'                              |
| Juan                   | Whan                                    |
| Junípero               | Hoo-nee'-pare-o                         |
| La Purísima Concepción | Lah Poo-rees'-e-mah<br>Con-sep-see-ohn' |
| La Soledad             | Lah Soh-leh-dahd'                       |

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Lasuén                | Lah-soo-en'                  |
| Los Angeles           | Lohs Ahn'-hay-lays           |
| Mariposa              | Mah-ree-po'-sah              |
| Monterey              | Mohn-teh-ray'                |
| Murrieta              | Moo-ree-eh'-tah              |
| Nevada                | Nay-vah'-dah                 |
| Pájaro                | Pah'-hah-ro                  |
| Palo Alto             | Pah'-lo Ahl'-to              |
| Palóu                 | Pah-low'                     |
| patio                 | pah'-tee-o                   |
| Portolá               | Pohr-to-lah'                 |
| plaza                 | plah'-zah                    |
| presidio              | pray-see'-dee-o              |
| pueblo                | poo-ay'-blo                  |
| ranchero              | rahn-chay'-ro                |
| ranchó                | rahn'-cho                    |
| rodeo                 | ro-day'-o                    |
| Rodríguez             | Roh-dree'-gays               |
| Sacramento            | Sah-crah-men'-to             |
| San Antonio de Padua  | Sahn Ahn-tohn'-ee-o          |
| Salinas               | Sah- lee'-nahs               |
| San Bernardino        | Sahn Ber-nar-dee'-no         |
| San Buenaventura      | Sahn Boo-ay'-nah-ven-too-rah |
| San Carlos Borroméo   | Sahn Cahr'-lohs              |
| San Diego             | Sahn Dee-ay'-go              |
| San Fernando          | Sahn Fer-nahn'-do            |
| San Francisco de Asís | Sahn Frahn-cees'-co          |
| San Francisco Solano  | Sahn Frahn-cees'-co          |
|                       | So-lah'-no                   |
| San Gabriel           | Sahn Gah-bree-ell'           |
| San Jose              | Sahn Ho-say'                 |
| San Juan Bautista     | Sahn Whan Bow-tees'-tah      |
| San Juan Capistrano   | Sahn Whan Cah-pees-trah'-no  |
| San Luís Obispo       | Sahn Loo-ees' Oh-bees'-po    |
| San Luís Rey          | Sahn Loo-ees' Ray            |
| San Miguel            | Sahn Mee-gell'               |
| San Rafael            | Sahn Rah-fah-ell'            |
| Santa Bárbara         | Sahn'-tah Bahr'-bahr-ah      |
| Santa Clara           | Sahn'-tah Clah'-rah          |
| Santa Cruz            | Sahn'-tah Crooth             |
| Santa Inés            | Sahn'-tah Ee-nays'           |
| Sierra                | See-ay'-rah                  |
| tamale                | ta-mah'-lay                  |
| tule                  | too'-lay                     |
| vaquero               | vah-kay'-ro                  |
| Vallejo               | Vahl-yay'-ho                 |
| Vizcaíno              | Vees-cah-ee'-no              |
| Yerba Buena           | Yer'-ba Bway'-nah            |

## Questions



### *Chapter 1*

#### THE PLEASANT LAND OF CALIFORNIA

1. Who lived first in California?
2. Why was it difficult to get here long ago?
3. Why did the Indians not need to travel far to get food?

### *Chapter 2*

#### THE FIRST PEOPLE TO LIVE IN CALIFORNIA

1. Name four kinds of houses the California Indians made for themselves.
2. What did the Indian men wear?
3. What did the women wear?
4. What was their chief food?
5. Name four plants they ate.
6. What meat could they get?
7. Tell how the cooking was done.
8. What was their chief handwork?
9. Name four or five uses for these baskets.
10. In what part of California did the Indians make pots and bowls?
11. What did they make from horns and shells?
12. What weapons did they have for hunting?
13. How did they catch a big animal like the otter?
14. What did the medicine man do for them when they were sick?
15. What was a sweat house and how did they use it?

16. Why did the California Indians keep on doing their work the same old way?
17. What do we find in the Indian mounds?
18. Draw a picture of Indians at work. Choose which work you want to draw.

### *Chapter 3*

#### THE FIRST SHIPS TO SAIL THE PACIFIC

1. What country was most powerful in the 1500's and 1600's?
2. What explorer discovered the Pacific Ocean?
3. What was it first called?
4. In what country did the Spanish settle?
5. What are galleons?
6. Why did the Spanish want to find good harbors for their ships?
7. What else did they want to find to make their voyages easier?

### *Chapter 4*

#### THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED CALIFORNIA

1. Who discovered California?
2. In what year?
3. How many boats did he have and what kind were they?
4. What was he trying to find?
5. What was the first harbor he found?
6. How did the Indians treat the Spanish?
7. Why didn't he sail into Monterey Bay?
8. What fine harbor did he pass without knowing it was there?
9. Where did Cabrillo die?
10. What caused his death?
11. Who continued the voyage?
12. Tell about some of the hardships the sailors had.

*Chapter 5*

AN ENGLISH SAILOR COMES TO CALIFORNIA

1. What English explorer came to California?
2. When he started how many ships did he have?
3. What did he do when he met Spanish treasure ships?
4. What happened as he sailed around the tip end of South America?
5. What ship was left?
6. Why did he keep on sailing and not turn back?
7. Why did he have to stop somewhere?
8. Where did he finally stop?
9. What did he do to claim this land for England?
10. When he reached home again how far had he sailed?
11. Draw the flag Drake had on his ship.

*Chapter 6*

ANOTHER SPANISH EXPLORER

1. Why was Vizcaino sent to California?
2. When did he come?
3. At what harbors did he stop?
4. Which one did he think was the finest?
5. What other explorer discovered these harbors?
6. Why did he send one of his ships back to Mexico?
7. Did he find San Francisco Bay?
8. Why didn't the King of Spain send more men and ships to California?

*Chapter 7*

FATHER SERRA WALKS TO CALIFORNIA

1. When did the first Spanish settlers come to California?
2. In how many different parties did they travel?
3. Name the two ships that brought supplies.
4. Name eight articles brought by these ships.
5. Why did it take so long for the first land party to walk?
6. What animals did they bring?
7. Who was the leader of the second land party?

8. What other important man was with this party?
9. What were the mission fathers going to teach the Indians?
10. Why was it hard for Father Serra to walk all the way?
11. How did they get meat to eat as they traveled?
12. What kind of a trip was it?
13. How long did it take?

### *Chapter 8*

#### FINDING MONTEREY ONCE MORE

1. When and where was the first mission started?
2. What kind of a building was the first mission church?
3. How did Father Serra call the Indians to come?
4. Who was going on to find Monterey Bay?
5. Name all the different men that went with him.
6. Who wrote a record of this trip?
7. How long did it take for these men to reach Monterey?
8. Why did they keep on looking for it?
9. What bay did they discover?
10. What had happened in San Diego while Portolá was gone?
11. What message did the ship *San Antonio* bring?
12. When Portolá went to Monterey again how did he take possession of the land?

### *Chapter 9*

#### THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

1. How many missions were founded?
2. Which was the first one?
3. Which was the last one?
4. How far apart were they?
5. What was the name of the road between the missions?
6. Tell how the buildings were built and the different materials used.
7. Tell about the different work the Indians learned to do at the missions.
8. What trees were planted?

9. Name three or four missions and tell where each one is.
10. Draw a mission.  
If there is a mission near you, try to visit it and tell what you saw there.

*Chapter 10*

PRESIDIOS AND PUEBLOS

Fill the blanks with the right words. See how many you can do without reading the chapter again.

1. A presidio is a .....
2. There were ..... presidios in California.
3. These presidios were at (1) ..... (2) .....  
(3) ..... (4) .....
4. Another kind of settlement made was a .....
5. Pueblo means .....
6. .... and .....  
were once pueblos.
7. In the center of the pueblo was the .....
8. Each family in the pueblo was given (1) .....  
(2) ..... (3) ..... (4) .....  
and (5) .....
9. The pueblos did not grow and prosper because the people  
did not .....

*Chapter 11*

TRAVELING ACROSS THE DESERT WITH CAPTAIN ANZA

1. Why was it so hard to cross the desert to California?
2. Who was the leader of this party?
3. What Indians treated them kindly?
4. What food did they give the Spaniards?
5. What presents did Anza give the Indian chief?
6. What was the second desert they had to cross?
7. To what mission did these travelers come?

8. How many settlers came with Anza?
9. What animals did they bring?
10. What happened to these animals?
11. What big river did they cross?
12. In what part of California were these settlers going to live?

### *Chapter 12*

#### LIFE ON THE RANCHOS

Read this chapter to learn about life in Spanish California and the meaning of many Spanish words that we use.

1. Write the meaning of these words.

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| rancho .....  | ranchero ..... |
| patio .....   | vaquero .....  |
| carreta ..... | rodeo .....    |
| corrals ..... | fiesta .....   |

2. See how many Spanish place names you can find in your part of California.
3. Tell how the houses on the ranchos were built.
4. What animal was most useful in those days?
5. Name ten uses for hides.
6. What did the Californians buy from the trading ships?
7. Draw a *carreta*.
8. What were some of the amusements the Californians had?
9. Why did they have rodeos?
10. How did they treat visitors?
11. How did the government like visitors from other lands?

### *Chapter 13*

#### RUSSIANS IN CALIFORNIA

1. Why did the Russians settle in Alaska?
2. Why did some of these Russians come down to California?
3. What did they bring to trade with the Spaniards?
4. What did they get in return?

5. Where did they make their settlement in California?
6. What did they give the Indians for the land?
7. Name four different kinds of work they did.
8. How large was their settlement in 1841?
9. How long did they stay in California?
10. Who bought their land and possessions?
11. Name three places in California that remind us of the Russian settlement.
12. Draw the Russian flag of that time.

### *Chapter 14*

#### A CHANGE OF FLAGS

Fill the blanks with the right words.

1. The ..... flag was California's flag for a long time.
2. The country of ..... also belonged to Spain.
3. In 1822 the Mexicans won their .....
4. California's new flag was the ..... flag.
5. The governors of California were ..... after 1822.
6. Much land was to ..... settlers under Mexican rule.
7. Draw the Mexican flag.

### *Chapter 15*

#### FUR TRADERS AND TRAPPERS

1. What animals did the trappers catch?
2. What did they discover when they were looking for animals?
3. How did they dress? Draw a trapper.
4. What kind of men were they?
5. When did the first American come overland to California?
6. What was his name?
7. At what mission was his party treated very kindly?

8. When Smith started to leave California, what way did he go?
9. Tell about his trip over the mountains that spring.
10. How did the Indians and Spanish-Californians treat Jedediah Smith on his second trip to California?
11. Why did he and his men make camps beside the small streams as they traveled?
12. What river was given its name because these men camped near it?
13. Tell about the hardships of the trip north to Oregon.
14. Where did Smith and the men who escaped finally meet?
15. What happened to their furs?
16. How was Smith's life ended?

### *Chapter 16*

#### JOHN SUTTER

1. From what country did John Sutter come?
2. Name three different places he went before he reached California.
3. What servants did he bring with him?
4. What was the name of San Francisco then?
5. Who gave him permission to stay in California?
6. Where did he make his settlement and how much land was he to have?
7. How did he get to his new home?
8. Name some of the different buildings at the fort.
9. What did Sutter buy from the Russians?
10. How did he treat the Americans who came?
11. Where did he plan to build a sawmill?
12. Who was in charge of this mill?
13. What was found in the millrace one morning?
14. Tell what happened when men heard that gold had been discovered.
15. How did the discovery of gold ruin John Sutter?
16. Where did he go to live and what happened to this home?
17. Who took his land?
18. Where did he spend his last years?

*Chapter 17*

THE AMERICANS COME

1. Why did the Americans want to come to California?
2. Over what kind of country did they have to travel?
3. What were these brave people called?
4. How did they travel?
5. Name eight things they brought with them to use later.
6. Where did they cook their meals?
7. What wild animals did they meet?
8. How were they treated by the Indians?
9. How long did the trip take?
10. How did they get across the rivers?
11. What was the name of the trail and how long was it?
12. Draw a covered wagon.

*Chapter 18*

THE FIRST EMIGRANT PARTY

1. Give the name of the first emigrant party.
2. Tell about their meeting with buffalo.
3. What happened when the party reached the Salt Lake country?
4. Why did they leave their wagons behind?
5. How did they get over the mountains into California?
6. When they came down the mountains into the valley what did they see?
7. Where did John Bidwell make his home?

*Chapter 19*

JOHN FRÉMONT

Fill the blanks with the right words.

1. Frémont came to California to .....
2. Two of his guides were .....  
and .....
3. Crossing the Sierra was dangerous in the winter  
because (1) ..... (2) ..... (3) .....

4. The snow was ..... in some places.
5. They crossed the mountains through the pass named  
.....
6. The men had to eat ....., and the horses  
tried to eat .....
7. From John Sutter, Frémont bought (1) .....  
(2) ..... (3) ..... (4) .....  
(5) .....
8. Frémont returned to the East by .....
9. Frémont came again in ..... and brought  
..... and .....
10. War had begun between ..... and .....
11. Frémont did not want to leave because .....
12. A message came that made Frémont decide to .....  
.....
13. One night the Americans were attacked by the .....  
.....
14. Some Americans at Sonoma captured .....
15. They made a new flag and called it .....
16. There were a few battles in California between the  
..... and the .....
17. The war ended in ..... and the United States  
won .....
18. Draw the Bear Flag.

### *Chapter 20*

#### THE DONNER PARTY

1. What party of people were lost in the heavy snows of the Sierra?
2. Why were they so late in reaching these mountains?
3. How did Mr. Reed leave messages for his family?

4. What man went ahead to get help?
5. What did he bring back for the hungry emigrants?
6. Where did they spend the winter?
7. What did they have to eat?
8. What happened to most of them?
9. Do you know anything named in honor of these people?

*Chapter 21*

GOLD RUSH DAYS

1. In what year did thousands of men come to California?
2. Why did they come?
3. Name the three ways to travel to California in those days.
4. How long did the trip take?
5. What tools did the miners need?
6. Where did the first miners find gold?
7. What was their chief food?
8. Why did everything cost so much?
9. What kind of money did the miners have?
10. Give the names of some of the mining camps that you think are the funniest.
11. What caused trouble in the camps?
12. Name two famous robbers and tell what happened to each one.

*Chapter 22*

DEATH VALLEY

1. Why did this party of emigrants take a short cut?
2. What valley did they have to cross?
3. What made this valley so difficult to cross?
4. How did they get wood for their camp fires?
5. What did they have to eat?
6. What two men went for help?
7. Where did they get supplies?
8. Name the different kinds of food they brought.
9. What else did they bring?

10. How did they get the children out of the valley?
11. How did the oxen get out?
12. How long had it taken them to reach California this way?

### *Chapter 23*

#### CALIFORNIA BECOMES A STATE

Fill in the blanks with the right words.

1. There was much trouble in California over the .....  
.....
2. In 1849 a convention met in ..... to make  
.....
3. It was necessary to have ..... laws for  
California so people would know what .....
4. .... and .....  
were at this meeting.
5. The first American governor was .....
6. The first American capital was in .....
7. California was made a state on .....
8. That day is called .....
9. The news had come to California by .....
10. The capital city of California has been in (1) .....  
..... (2) .....  
(3) ..... (4) .....
11. California's state flag is .....

*Chapter 24*

## STAGECOACH AND PONY EXPRESS

1. How was mail brought to California before the days of the overland coach?
2. How long did it take?
3. How was mail sent to the mining camps?
4. How long did it take for the overland coaches to reach California?
5. Tell three or four things you remember about the overland mail trip.
6. What quicker way to deliver the mail was found?
7. Name the two towns at each end of the horseback ride.
8. How was mail taken from Sacramento to San Francisco?
9. How many men were needed to carry the mail each way?
10. Where and how did they get fresh horses?
11. What was a *mochila*?
12. When did the Pony Express start to carry the mail?
13. Why did the Pony Express stop this service?
14. Name one of the famous riders and tell about his adventures.

*Chapter 25*

## THE RAILROAD IS BUILT

1. Who planned the railroad?
2. (a) What four men helped him? (b) What are they often called?
3. Why did these men want a railroad?
4. How did they get enough money?
5. Name the two companies formed to build the railroad.
6. Why was it so difficult to cross the mountains in California?
7. What did the Central Pacific Company do so the railroad could be used in the winter?
8. Where were all the different parts made and how were the materials brought to California?
9. When building across the desert how did the company get wood?

10. Which company built the greatest number of miles?  
Why?
11. When was the railroad finished? Where did the two engines meet?
12. What was the Golden Spike?
13. What did the people in California do when they heard the railroad was finished?

### *Chapter 26*

#### CALIFORNIA TODAY

1. Why did building of railroads to California make a change in the state?
2. What did the new settlers do to make a living?
3. What crop became very important?
4. What other treasure beside gold was found in the ground?
5. How have the deserts been made fertile?
6. Name three or four beauty spots in California.
7. Tell how our highways are different from the old *El Camino Real*.
8. How have the bridges across San Francisco Bay helped traffic?
9. What is the fastest way men have found to travel now?
10. What story did you like best? Why?

## Suggested Activities

### GENERAL ACTIVITIES :

Notebooks with map and flag drawings and illustrated by the children with their own ideas of various episodes in the history of their state are always a useful and interesting activity which children enjoy.

Large wall drawings of the most outstanding events can be a co-operative activity extending through the time allotted to the study and allowing as many children as possible to participate. Later these drawings can be used as scenic effects in dramatizations.

A frieze of these events as a blackboard border decoration might be better suited to some classroom situations.

Excursions to local points of historic interest and importance will stimulate the children to increased enthusiasm for the printed records.

Contacts with the descendants of pioneers in their own community for actual personal accounts of experiences could be the basis for oral reports.

Oral reports given as a result of individual or class excursions or contacts are more effective if given as a radio program with television. The reports are enriched by using the modern technique and the children have the thrill of being costumed.

Pioneer Day could be observed in the school, at which time the children honor the founders of their community in whatever way is best adapted to the situation.

Dramatizations written by the children can be used for classroom production or as a school play.

## SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

## INDIANS:

Oral reports on Indian tribes native to the section and local Indian place names.

Dramatizations of Indian life before and after the white man came.

Displays of any California Indian relics. If none are available, the children will be happy to make facsimiles of tools, weapons, clothing, and homes.

In correlation with Art work, basketry interests both boys and girls. Clay modeling is another effective craft. This can be simulated, if the use of clay is not practical, by papier-mache painted with poster paint or kalsomine.

## SPANISH AND MEXICAN LIFE:

This period is rich in material for dramatizations with its many phases—Mission Days, Life on the Ranchos, Fiesta Time. Here is an opportunity to use and enjoy Spanish and Mexican music both vocal and in the dance. Mexican children in the district can furnish much information and assistance. They will also wish to exhibit modern Mexican handicrafts.

Puppetry can be used to excellent advantage in some of these dramatizations.

The study of Spanish place names and the modern everyday usage of Spanish and Mexican words can be as extensive a study as the teacher wishes. The children can make a Spanish dictionary of their own.

An imaginary tour of the missions can be developed by illustrated reports or soap sculpture or clay modeling.

There is a wealth of Art forms to be used both in the notebook and as a distinct Art expression.

## GOLD RUSH DAYS:

Exhibits of mining relics.

Local place names derived from early American settlements.

Study of songs of that period.

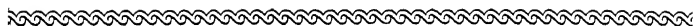
Models of cabins, covered wagons, stagecoach and early-day trains, made in cardboard on rollers for moving picture presentation as a class program.

Contacts with descendants of pioneers will be particularly important here.

If possible and practical, excursions to a ghost mining town.

Dramatizations of Gold Discovery, Driving the Golden Spike, and Raising of the Bear Flag.

# Answers



## Chapter 2

### FIRST PEOPLE TO LIVE IN CALIFORNIA

1. Four kinds of homes—Houses with wooden walls and roofs built partly below the ground; huts of poles covered with grass or mud caves in the hillsides; shelter of brush.
2. Clothing—Indian men wore no clothes except skin around hips—in rainy season rabbit skins or deerskin cloaks.
3. Indian women wore tule grass skirts, capes of rabbit skins, basket shaped hats, necklaces of shell or stone.
4. Chief food—acorns.
5. Four plants eaten—wild onions, grass seeds, berries, roots.
6. Meat—rabbits, squirrels, deer and elk. Fish.
7. Cooking was done outside in baskets. Baskets were rubbed with tar or pitch and filled with water into which hot rocks were dropped. Acorn meal was put into the hot water.
8. Chief handwork—baskets.
9. Baskets used for pots and kettles, for carrying seeds and grass, for hats, for beating seed from grass, for storing food.
10. Near San Diego pots were made from clay, near Los Angeles from soapstone.
11. Knives and spoons and dishes were made from horns and shells.
12. Bows and arrows used for hunting.  
Harpoon used for catching otter.  
Medicine man danced, waved his hands, beat drum, and made strange sounds.  
Sweat house—hut tightly covered with dirt, one low door, inside a big fire on dirt floor. Indian went in and closed door—stayed until dripping wet—then rushed out and jumped into nearest water.
16. California Indians had all they needed so did not travel for food and met no other Indians. They did not see any other Indians working in a different way.
17. In Indian mounds we find old Indian tools and weapons.
18. Picture drawn of Indians at work.

*Chapter 3*

## FIRST SHIPS ON PACIFIC

1. Spain—most powerful country.
2. Balboa.
3. Southern Sea.
4. Mexico.
5. Galleons—large sailing ships sent out to get treasure.
6. Good harbors needed where ships could stop for repairs and to get fresh water and wood.
7. Short way to sail around North America.

*Chapter 4*

## MAN WHO DISCOVERED CALIFORNIA

1. Cabrillo.
2. 1542.
3. Two small sailing boats—one without a deck.
4. Good harbors and a short way around North America (Strait of Anián).
5. San Diego.
6. Indians tried to kill Spaniards.
7. Waves were too high.
8. San Francisco.
9. On an island—now called San Miguel.
10. A broken arm.
11. Ferrelo, the chief pilot.
12. Heavy storms—sailors cold and wet for weeks—nothing to eat but wet ship biscuit. Sailors were sick. Ships became separated.

*Chapter 5*

## AN ENGLISH SAILOR

1. Francis Drake.
2. Five ships.
3. Captured Spanish ships.
4. In the storms one ship sank and two turned back.
5. The *Golden Hind*.
6. The Spanish would be waiting for him to capture the treasure had taken from them.
7. His ship was battered by storms. His men were sick. They needed fresh water and food.
8. At Drake's Bay—thirty miles north of San Francisco Bay.
9. He set up a pole and nailed a brass plate with the date and the Queen's name on it.
10. All the way around the world.
11. Drawing of English flag.

*Chapter 6*

## ANOTHER SPANISH EXPLORER

1. To find harbors for the treasure ships.
2. In 1602.
3. San Diego and Monterey.
4. Monterey.
5. Cabrillo.
6. To take the sick sailors back to Mexico. He also sent the map he had made.
7. No.
8. The King was too busy fighting a war to spare money for a voyage to California.

*Chapter 7*

## FATHER SERRA WALKS TO CALIFORNIA

1. In 1769 (or one hundred and sixty-seven years later.)
2. In four different parties—two sea parties and two land parties
3. *San Antonio* and *San Carlos*.
4. Any eight of these articles—seeds of grains and vegetables, trunks of fruit trees and of grapevines, spades, shovels, hammers, axes, saws, blankets, colored beads, pieces of bright, shining metal.
5. There was not a road of any kind, not even a trail, because no one had traveled this way before.
6. Cattle, horses, and mules.
7. Don Gáspar de Portolá.
8. Father Junípero Serra.
9. Indians would be taught how to build better homes, how to make clothes, how to plant fruit and grain, and many other kinds of work. They would also be taught about God and how to live good Christian lives.
10. He was no longer young, and he had a sore leg.
11. The soldiers killed deer and antelope.
12. It was a long, hot, dangerous trip.
13. From May until the first of July (nearly two months).

*Chapter 8*

## FINDING MONTEREY ONCE MORE

1. First mission at San Diego in 1769.
2. A big brush hut.
3. By ringing a bell.
4. Portolá and some of his men.
5. Soldiers, servants, Mexicans, Indians, a map maker, and two mission fathers, Father Crespi and Father Gomez.
6. Father Crespi.

7. It took seventy-eight days.
8. They kept looking because they did not know they had found it.
9. San Francisco Bay.
10. Many men had died. The Indians had tried to kill the Spanish.
11. The ship brought food, medicine, and supplies—also a letter telling Portolá to do everything possible to find Monterey.
12. He took possession by setting up a wooden cross and the flag of Spain.

### *Chapter 9*

#### THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS

1. Twenty-one missions.
2. San Diego.
3. Sonoma.
4. About one day's journey apart—forty or fifty miles.
5. *El Camino Real*.
6. Missions were built of adobe bricks with framework of walls and roof of logs. Walls were thick and covered with a coat of plaster.
7. The Indians learned to plow, to plant seeds and cuttings, to make leather into shoes and boots and saddles, to dig ditches, to make bricks, to make yarn, to care for cattle and sheep, to sew, to cook in the white man's way, and to build the missions.
8. Olive, peach, pear, fig, palm, and pepper trees.
9. Any three or four missions, but probably children will select San Carlos Borroméo at Carmel, San Francisco de Asís at San Francisco, San Gabriel near Los Angeles, San Juan Capistrano.

### *Chapter 10*

#### PRESIDIOS AND PUEBLOS

1. A fort.
2. Four.
3. San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Barbara.
4. Pueblo.
5. Town.
6. San Jose, Los Angeles.
7. Plaza.
8. Food, clothing, tools, animals, and land. Another answer could be given with the kind of tools and animals designated.
9. Like to work. They let the Indians do the work for them or sat and watched the Indians work.

### *Chapter 11*

#### TRAVELING ACROSS THE DESERT WITH ANZA

1. It was hard to cross desert because there was no trail and only two places to get water.
2. Captain Anza

3. Yuma Indians near the Colorado River.
4. Corn, beans, pumpkins, and watermelons.
5. A necklace of money and a bright silk sash.
6. The Colorado Desert.
7. San Gabriel.
8. Two hundred and forty men, women, and children.
9. Cattle.
10. Some they ate on the way. All cattle left would be given to the settlers.
11. Colorado.
12. At San Francisco.

## Chapter 12

## LIFE ON SPANISH RANCHOS

1. Ranch.  
inner garden or court  
cart  
pens for livestock  
rancher or owner  
cowboy  
roundup  
feast
2. Spanish place names in your own particular section of California.
3. Houses were built low with narrow, deep windows. Walls were made of adobe and very thick. Inside walls were whitewashed. Tiled roofs. House was built around a patio.
4. Cattle.
5. Ten or more uses for hides: saddles, harness, shoes, boots, chair seats, ropes, bags, jackets, for beds and in place of nails to tie poles together.
6. Cotton cloth, silk, stockings, shawls, nails, hinges, tools of all kinds, window glass, beds, chairs, and tables.
7. Draw a *carreta*.
8. Amusements, *Rodeos*, *Fandangos*, *Fiestas*, horse races, bear hunting, bull and bear fights.
9. To mark the new calves with the mark (brand) of their owner.
10. They were friendly and kind to visitors.
11. The government did not want visitors.

## Chapter 13

## RUSSIANS IN CALIFORNIA

1. The Russians settled in Alaska to start fur-trading stations.
2. Some Russians came to California to get food for the starving in Alaska.
3. They brought boots, cloth, and tools to trade.
4. They took in return corn, flour, beans, peas, salted meat, tallow, and soap.
5. In Sonoma County, north of San Francisco and on Bodega Bay.
6. They gave the Indians three pairs of trousers, three blankets, three hoes, two axes, and some beads.

7. Four different kinds of work: tanning hides, making kegs, tiles and barrels, shipbuilding, and raising grain.
8. In 1841 there were two mills, a shipyard, tannery, a blacksmith shop, many horses, sheep, cattle, and hogs, and three hundred people.
9. They stayed more than thirty years.
10. John Sutter bought their land and possessions.
11. The Russian River, Mt. Saint Helena, and Fort Ross remind us of the Russian settlement.
12. Drawing of the Russian flag.

### *Chapter 14*

#### A CHANGE OF FLAGS

1. Spanish.
2. Mexico.
3. Freedom.
4. Mexican.
5. Mexican.
6. Foreign.
7. Drawing of Mexican flag.

### *Chapter 15*

#### FUR TRADERS AND TRAPPERS

1. Otter and beaver.
2. They discovered low places in the mountains where they could pass through; more rivers and valleys.
3. They dressed in suits of leather, long leather shirts and leggings, caps of coonskin or beaver, and carried knives and guns. A drawing of a trapper.
4. They were brave men who were not afraid of Indians or wild animals; strong men who could stand hunger and cold; wise men who could find their way in the wilderness; expert hunters.
5. In 1826.
6. Jedediah Smith.
7. San Gabriel Mission.
8. He went through the inland valley of California.
9. Smith took two men, seven horses and two mules heavily loaded with hay and provisions. The snow was still deep in the mountains. Three of the animals died, but the men kept on, and in June reached Great Salt Lake.
10. The Indians tried to kill them. The Spanish were not friendly. The Governor put Smith in jail at Monterey. He kept him there until some American ship captains asked to have Smith go free.
11. They made camps so they could trap small animals along the streams.
12. The American River.

13. Hardships on the journey north: no trails, stormy weather, steep mountains, horses slipped and fell, no grass for horses, some horses drowned, rafts had to be built to get across the rivers.
14. They met at Fort Vancouver.
15. Dr. McLoughlin (or the man in charge of the trading station) sent some of his men to get them back from the Indians. They did and he bought them from Smith.
16. He was killed by Indians at a water pool in the desert.

### *Chapter 16*

#### JOHN SUTTER

1. He came from Switzerland.
2. He went to Oregon, to Hawaii (Sandwich Islands), and to Alaska.
3. Eight Kanaka servants from the islands.
4. Yerba Buena.
5. The Spanish governor.
6. He made his settlement on the shores of the Sacramento River. His land was to be eleven square leagues (about seventy square miles).
7. He came up the Sacramento River by boat.
8. Different buildings at the Fort: Sutter's home, stores, warehouses, granaries, shops, and homes.
9. From the Russians he bought cattle, horses, sheep, tools, lumber, doors, windows, cannons, rifles, and a boat. He also bought their land.
10. He treated the Americans kindly.
11. At Coloma on the American River.
12. James Marshall.
13. Gold.
14. When men heard that gold was discovered, they stopped work to hunt for gold. Crowds of men came on every boat. (Some children may tell about Brannan's trip to San Francisco also.)
15. His men stopped work and his mills could not run. Hides rotted in the tannery. No one worked in the fields. The gold seekers trampled on his grain, killed his cattle, stole his horses, and settled on his land.
16. To Hock Farm on the Feather River.
17. The men who came and settled on it.
18. In Pennsylvania.

### *Chapter 17*

#### THE AMERICANS COME

1. They came to make their homes here because they had heard of the pleasant, sunny climate, the many animals, and the miles of land fine for farming.
2. They traveled over plains, mountains, and deserts.
3. Emigrants.

4. In covered wagons.
5. Eight (or more) things they brought: bedding, clothing, kitchen goods, stoves, plates, cups, basins, churns, pots, pans, water kegs, tools, and cows.
6. On stoves.
7. Buffalo, deer, antelope.
8. Some Indians were friendly. Some killed the emigrants.
9. Six months.
10. They rode through rivers not too deep. Others they crossed on big rafts. The animals swam.
11. The Oregon Trail. It was two thousand miles long.
12. Drawing of a covered wagon.

### *Chapter 18*

#### THE FIRST EMIGRANT PARTY

1. Bidwell Party.
2. So many buffalo came the emigrants had to light fires and shoot off their guns to turn the animals away from the wagons.
3. In the Salt Lake country the water was too salty to drink. There was no grass for the animals. It was hot and dusty traveling.
4. They were not traveling fast enough so they left some of the wagons behind.
5. They climbed and followed a river through the canyons. They pushed and pulled the mules.
6. They saw groves of trees, green grass, wild grapes, antelope, and deer.
7. In the upper part of the Sacramento Valley where he started the town of Chico.

### *Chapter 19*

#### JOHN FRÉMONT

1. Explore.
2. Kit Carson and Thomas Fitzpatrick.
3. They knew nothing about the mountains, they had no maps, they did not know where the passes might be, and they did not know how deep the snow might be.
4. Twenty feet deep.
5. Carson Pass.
6. Mule and dog meat—saddles.
7. Blankets, clothing, soap, food, horses (also mules and cattle).
8. The old Spanish Trail.
9. 1846. Any two of these; hunters and guides, Delaware Indians, many horses, Carson, and Fitzpatrick.
10. United States and Mexico.
11. He wanted to be in California if war should begin.
12. Stay in California.
13. Indians (Klamath Indians).

14. General Vallejo.
15. Bear Flag.
16. Americans and Californians.
17. 1848. California.
18. Drawing of Bear Flag.

### *Chapter 20*

#### THE DONNER PARTY

1. Donner Party.
2. They took a short cut and lost time in getting to the mountains.
3. He scattered feathers and left pieces of paper fastened to twigs
4. Mr. Stanton.
5. Flour and dried beef.
6. At Donner Lake.
7. Oxen, bark, pine twigs, glue made from boiled hides.
8. Most of them died.
9. Donner Lake.

### *Chapter 21*

#### THE GOLD RUSH

1. 1849.
2. To hunt for gold (to find a fortune in the California gold mines).
3. Overland by covered wagons, sailing all the way around South America, sailing to Panama, then to the Pacific coast to wait for a ship sailing to California.
4. Six months or more.
5. Pick, shovel, and pan.
6. Along the streams.
7. Bacon and beans.
8. There were few stores in California. Everything had to be brought on ships from far away.
9. Gold dust and nuggets.
10. Individual choice of camp names.
11. Some men tried to steal gold from the miners.
12. Black Bart—a stagecoach robber—was caught and put in jail. Joaquin Murrieta—a robber—was caught and shot.

### *Chapter 22*

#### TRAVELING THROUGH DEATH VALLEY

1. They were tired of the long, hard trip and wanted to find a shorter way.
2. Death Valley.
3. It was a desert with no water and no shade.
4. They had to burn some of the wagons.
5. Oxen.

6. William Lewis Manly and John Rogers.
7. To San Fernando Mission.
8. Dry beans, dried meat, and flour.
9. Two horses and a mule.
10. The children were lowered by ropes.
11. Oxen were lowered by ropes.
12. Four months.

### *Chapter 23*

#### CALIFORNIA BECOMES A STATE

1. Land.
2. Monterey—constitution for California.
3. American—they could do and what they could not do.
4. John Sutter and General Vallejo.
5. Peter Burnett.
6. San Jose.
7. September 9, 1850.
8. Admission Day.
9. Ship.
10. San Jose—Vallejo—Benicia—Sacramento.
11. The Bear Flag.

### *Chapter 24*

#### STAGECOACH AND PONY EXPRESS

1. By ships.
2. Seven or eight months.
3. By the express company.
4. Twenty-five days.
5. Any three or four items from the following: rough, dangerous trip, coaches traveled day and night, a bumpy ride, guards traveled on horseback to protect the coach, stations were about ten miles apart, the Butterfield company had a hundred coaches, a thousand horses, and five hundred mules, mail coaches went across the desert as that way could be used all year.
6. By Pony Express.
7. Sacramento and St. Joseph.
8. On the river boat.
9. Ten.
10. A leather covering with four pockets to hold the mail, which could be put over the saddle.
11. April 3, 1860.
12. A telegraph line was built which carried news faster.
13. Individual choice of Pony Express rider and his adventures.

*Chapter 25*

## THE RAILROAD IS BUILT

1. Theodore Judah.
2. (a) Leland Stanford—Collis P. Huntington—Mark Hopkins—Charles Crocker. (b) The Big Four.
3. A railroad would help them in their business by bringing freight to California faster than by ship.
4. They got money from the government of the United States and from the cities and counties of California.
5. Central Pacific and Union Pacific.
6. The winter storms were heavy. Snow fell so fast and thick it took many men to keep the ground cleared.
7. They built snow sheds and tunnels.
8. The different parts were made in the East and sent on ships to California.
9. All wood had to be hauled from California over the mountains.
10. The Union Pacific, because it had flat, level country to cross.
11. May 10, 1869. At Promontory, Utah.
12. The Golden Spike was the last spike driven when the two railroads met.
13. Everyone was wild with joy. Whistles and bells clanged. There were parades and speeches.

*Chapter 26*

## CALIFORNIA TODAY

1. It brought California nearer the rest of the world. Travel was easier and many more people came to make their homes in California.
2. Farm.
3. Fruit (oranges, lemons).
4. Oil.
5. By digging ditches and building dams to bring water.
6. Lassen Peak—Mt. Shasta—Lake Tahoe—Yosemite—Mt. Whitney—Big Tree. Answer any two or three of these.
7. Our highways are smooth, paved roads going to all parts of the state. The old *El Camino Real* was a dusty road between missions.
8. People can cross San Francisco Bay more quickly.
9. By airships (the Clippers).
10. Individual choice of story.

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